Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-223
Tuesday
21 November 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-223 *21 November 1989*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

OAPEC Countries' Oil Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi 1
Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives *[WAKH]* 1
Ministers Conclude Talks *[WAKH]* 1
GCC Oil Ministers Conclude Committee Meeting *[WAKH]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

KUNA Cites 'Abd-Rabbuh on Delegation, Elections 1
'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Broad Lines' of Baker Plan Reply *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Hurani Outlines Basis of Reply *[MENA]* 2
Al-Surani on Baker Plan, Ties With Egypt *[London AL-MAJALLAH 21 Nov]* 2
Abu-Sharif: U.S. Policy Made by Bush, Not Israel *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 16 Nov]* 4
'Arafat Receives Messages Various Leaders 4
Swedish Foreign Minister *[INA]* 4
'Important Message' From Italy *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Message From Ghanaian Leader *[Algiers VOP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Envoy Brings 'Palestinian Answer' to Baker Plan *[MENA]* 5
Government Welcomes Sudan, SPLA Agreement *[MENA]* 5
Iraq's Ramadan on Official Visit; Meets Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Discusses Workers, Arab Affairs *[MENA]* 5
Ends 3-Day Visit to Cairo *[MENA]* 6
'Abd-al-Majid Welcomes Cypriot President's Visit *[MENA]* 6
Cypriot President Arrives *[MENA]* 7
Ghali Leaves for Paris, 3-Country African Tour *[MENA]* 7
Chief of Staff Leaves for Visit to UK *[MENA]* 7
Agreement on Wheat Imports Signed With Australia *[Cairo Radio]* 7
PLO To Name Delegation to Talks With Israel *[AL-AHRAM 18 Nov]* 7
Arabs Blamed for Pushing Ethiopia Toward Israel *[AL-AHRAM 19 Nov]* 7
Indictments in Al-Rayan Fraud Case Announced *[AL-AHRAM 16 Nov]* 8
'Bright Star' Joint Maneuvers Completed *[MENA]* 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Gorbachev *[JANA]* 9
Egyptian Health Minister Signs Protocol Agreement *[JANA]* 9
Makes Statement, Departs *[JANA]* 9
Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[JANA]* 10

Morocco

Foreign Minister Hails Ties With Ivory Coast *[Abidjan Radio]* 10
Filali Receives New Jordanian Ambassador *[MAP]* 10
Senegal Forces Minister Arrives on Visit *[Dakar Radio]* 10
Member of Socialist Union Party Pardoned *[MAP]* 10

Sudan

Al-Bashir Briefs Press on Carter Meeting *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
SPLA Cites Al-Bashir 'Lies' on Bombing *[Radio SPLA]* 11
SPLA on Bombing, Relief 'Disaster' in South *[Radio SPLA]* 11
SPLA Spokesman Comments on Daily Air Raids *[Radio SPLA]* 12
Khartoum, SPLA To Open Peace Talks 1 Dec *[AFP]* 13
Foreign Minister Blames Rebels for Fighting *[SUNA]* 13
Sudanese Information Minister Grants Interview *[MENA]* 14
Ministry Statement Condemns Israeli Action *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Foreign Minister Regrets Ethiopia, Israel Ties *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Kassiano Says Army 'In Control' in South *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Islamic Program for Prison Inmates Established *[SUNA]* 15
Paper Says Garang in Israel for Arms Supplies *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Emergency Aid Extended to PLO for Food *[AL-SIYASAH 13 Nov]* 16
OIC Calls for Support for Palestinian People *[KUNA]* 16
Amir Receives Ortega's Envoy, Message *[Kuwait Radio]* 16
Study Shows Rise in Locals in Government Posts *[ARAB TIMES 13 Nov]* 16

Yemen Arab Republic

Hungarian Trade Minister Visits 11-14 Nov 17
Prime Minister Receives Beck *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Deputy Prime Minister Receives Beck *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Al-'Attar Receives Hungarian Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Trade Minister Leaves; Agreement Signed *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Sudan's 'Umar al-Bashir Visits 11-13 Nov *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Arrives, Hold Talks With Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Further on Arrival *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Briefs Salih on South *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Departs Sanaa for Aden *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Al-Bashir Urges 'Direct Dialogue' With SPLA *[SUNA]* 19
Cooperation Minutes Signed With Netherlands *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Salih To Visit PDRY for UK Withdrawal Celebration *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Council Urges 'Serious, Practical Steps' Toward Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
President Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Unity Issues *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

'Aziz Announces Talks Proposal at News Conference *[INA]* 21
Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting *[INA]* 27
Ramadan Makes Statement on Return From Egypt *[INA]* 27
Editorial: Iran Insists on 'No-War, No-Peace' *[INA]* 28
Deputy Premier Hammadi Returns From Kuwait *[Baghdad Radio]* 28
'Aziz Delivering Message to Jordanian King *[INA]* 28

ISRAEL

Shamir Discusses Baker Plan, Coalition Crisis *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Shamir Concludes U.S. Visit, Leaves for Europe *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Results of Shamir's Visit to U.S. Reviewed *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 30
Arens Says PLO Response 'No Interest to Us' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Arens Opposed To Taking 'Orders' From the U.S. *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Nov]* 31
Ambassador Shamir Meets Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Nusaybah Sees 'Probability' of Cairo Dialogue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Nusaybah Wants Interim Palestinian Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Abie Nathan Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32

GDR Minister Says Germanies To Remain Separate *[HA'ARETZ 19 Nov]* 33
New Agricultural Agreement Signed With Egypt *[MA'ARIV 19 Nov]* 33
Official Population Figures, Trends Released *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 34
Balance of Payments To Register Large Surplus *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Nov]* 34
Cabinet Delays Approval of Supplementary Budget *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Nov]* 35
IDF Prepares for Armed Escalation of Intifadah *[HA'ARETZ 21 Nov]* 35

JORDAN

Marwan al-Qasim Discusses PLO, Peace Plans *[Amman TV]* 36
Islamists Questioned About Freedom, Economy *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 19 Nov]* 40
Columnist Reviews Muslim Brothers' Victory *[AL-RA'Y 12 Nov]* 42
Columnist on Need To Separate Religion, State *[AL-RA'Y 12 Nov]* 42
Creditors Agree To Reschedule Jordan's Debts *[Amman Radio]* 43

LEBANON

'Awn Grants Interview to AL-ANWAR *[18 Nov]* 44
Sham'un, Abu-al-Lam' Criticize U.S. Envoy *[VOL]* 47
Agreement on Formation of Government Reached *[RFL]* 47
Paper Cited on Condition for Syrian Withdrawal *[RFL]* 48
Egyptians Said Wounded in Clash With Iraqis *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 48
National Front Reviews Political Developments *[VOM]* 48
Junblatt, Birri Want Defense, Finance Portfolios *[RFL]* 48
General 'Awn Addresses Flag Day Ceremony *[VOL]* 48
Mu'awwad Returns to West Beirut From Ihdin *[VOM]* 49
Soviet Ambassador Meets Junblatt, Comments *[VOM]* 49
Lebanese Front Leader on Al-Ta'if Accord *[KUNA]* 49
Military Activities Reported in Western Al-Biqa' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Group Attacks Syrian Patrol in Northern Lebanon *[VOL]* 50
Katyushas Near Norwegian Unit Positions in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
DFLP Fighter Killed in Clashes With SLA *[VOL]* 50
'Awn Military Movements Noted in Mountain Area *[VOM]* 50
Device Explodes Inside West Beirut Restaurant *[Beirut Radio]* 50
'Nationalist' Positions in Mountains Under Fire *[VOM]* 50
Further on Clashes *[VOM]* 51
Reports of Israeli, Resistance Action in South *[Beirut Radio]* 51
Syrians Deployed in Suburb To Halt Clashes *[RFL]* 51
Radio Reports Skirmishes Along Combat Lines *[VOL]* 51
Explosive Charge Damages Phalangist Monument *[VOL]* 51

SYRIA

Lebanon's Mu'awwad Hails Corrective Movement *[Damascus TV]* 52
Prime Minister Remarks on Lebanon, Economy *[Damascus Radio]* 52
People's Assembly Approves 1989 Budget Bill *[Damascus Radio]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul Reacts Cautiously to Golbuddin's Remarks *[AFP]* 53
Shiite Delegation To Negotiate With AIG *[AFP]* 53
Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Jalalabad *[AFP]* 53
Supplies Arrive in Kabul, Rebel Attacks Continue *[AFP]* 54
'Fierce Fighting' at Samar Kheyl *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Kabul Army Units Reportedly Kill 'Ringleader' *[Kabul Radio]* 54

India

India Opposes UN Resolution on Nuclear-Free Zone *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Bombings, Violence Kill 10 as Elections Near *[AFP]* 54

State 'Revolt' Clouds Opposition's Challenge *[AFP]* 55
Muslim Leader Defects to Gandhi's Opposition *[AFP]* 56
BBC: Gandhi To Lose 'Absolute Majority' 56

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Military Graduation Address *[Tehran Radio]* 57
RESALAT on Implications of U.S. 'Terrorism' *[6 Nov]* 58
President Calls for Expanded Political Ties *[IRNA]* 58
Velayati on 'Policy of Equality, Balance' in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Commercial Cooperation With Oman To Expand *[IRNA]* 58
KEYHAN Condemns Omani 'Illogical' Move *[12 Nov]* 59
Foreign Minister Comments on Algiers Accord *[IRNA]* 59
UN Representative Comments on Resolution 598 *[IRNA]* 60
TEHRAN TIMES Urges UN Chief To Mediate *[IRNA]* 61
Petrochemical Complex To Open 'Next Year' *[IRNA]* 61
Deputy Petroleum Minister on Gas Production *[Tehran Radio]* 61
TEHRAN TIMES on Next OPEC Meeting *[7 Nov]* 62
Velayati Receives Message From Turkey's Ozal *[IRNA]* 62
Commentary on Policies of New Turkish President *[Tehran International]* 62
Iranian Students Reportedly Tortured in Turkey *[IRNA]* 63
Student Protests at Ankara University Noted *[Tehran International]* 63
W. Azerbaijan, Turkish Officials Discuss Border *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Turkey's Move To Open Consulate in Baku Noted *[Tehran International]* 64
Editorial Comments on Relations With Pakistan *[KEYHAN 22 Oct]* 64
Tehran To Head Asian Countries in Group of 77 *[IRNA]* 65
Danish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 65
Calls for Improved Relations *[IRNA]* 65
Discusses Ties With Habibi *[IRNA]* 65
Meets With Deputy Minister Va'ezi *[IRNA]* 65
Velayati Meets With UN Population Fund Director *[IRNA]* 65
KAYHAN Cited on Population Control Measures *[IRNA]* 66
Deputy Labor Minister on Creation of New Jobs *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Judicial Head Yazdi Appoints New Adviser *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Interior Ministry Issues Communique on Election *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Majlis Deputy Comments on Upcoming Elections *[Tehran TV]* 67
Tehran To Host International Conference on Drugs *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Operations Against Drug Traffickers Continue 67
Network in Kerman Province Broken *[Tehran Radio]* 67
IRGC Arrests Agents, Addicts *[Tehran Radio]* 68
7 'Notorious Gangs' Smashed *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Strike by University Students Continues *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 68

Pakistan

Iranian Interior Minister Continues Visit 68
Calls on Benazir Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Further on Talks With Bhutto *[IRNA]* 68
Bilateral Relations Discussed *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Wali Khan To Consider Bhutto Proposal *[Islamabad Radio]* 69

Sri Lanka

India Accused of Setting Up 'Illegal Force' *[BBC]* 69
Search Operations Conducted, Suspects Arrested *[LANKAPUVATH]* 70
JVP Violence Continues Despite Leaders' Death *[Delhi TV]* 70
3 Soldiers Killed in Northern Town of Mannar *[LANKAPUVATH]* 70
Communique Issued on Violence, Arrests 21 Nov *[LANKAPUVATH]* 70
Minister Rebuffs Northeast Chief Over Report *[Colombo International]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

OAPEC Countries' Oil Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives

JN1911213089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2059 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Nov (INA)—This evening, Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi arrived in Abu Dhabi for a meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] set to begin tomorrow. On hand to welcome him was Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the United Arab Emirates.

In an arival statement, Al-Jalabi said Iraq is keen to support OAPEC and strengthen its role in concerted Arab action. At this time when world economic blocs are coming into being, we need to close ranks and consolidate our organization in the oil related industries, Al-Jalabi said. He stressed the importance of the next OPEC meeting slated for 25 November in Vienna. On the prospects for raising the production ceiling above the current level of 20.5 million barrels per day, the minister said the matter will be the subject of intensive consultations by the OPEC oil ministers.

Ministers Conclude Talks

JN2011171089 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 20 (GNA)—OAPEC [Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries] oil ministers ended their talks today after electing Egypt's 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil as the group's chairman.

The ministers approved the 1990 operating budget of 1.316 million Kuwaiti dinars and the budgets of the judicial committee of 164,650 dinars and the Arab Oil Institute of 967,905 Iraqi dinars.

They reviewed the annual report on cooperation among the organisation's institutions and pledged support for them.

They also discussed a memorandum from the secretariat on increasing world concern over the environment and asked the secretariat to continue efforts to combat polution.

The meeting also dealt with a letter from the secretariat on technical cooperation between the organisation and the European Community.

Other issues were also discussed by the ministers, who agreed to hold their next meeting in Kuwait on May 7.

GCC Oil Ministers Conclude Committee Meeting

JN2011171589 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 20, (GNA)—The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] permanent committee for petroleum cooperation concluded its 15th meeting here today. GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, later told reporters the ministers discussed five main issues including setting up a joint gas network.

"The ministers decided to set up a high-level expert committee to discuss this issue," he said.

The committee will meet in Qatar next month to discuss how much gas each member will buy as well as prices so to reach an agreement that will guarantee the interest of all members, he said.

He said the ministers also approved the accord on oil lending in emergency after adding some points to it.

He said the ministers also decided to form a committee to discuss report from the GCC secretariat on a unified oil strategy, adding the committee will meet on May 5.

Negotiations with the European Community (EC) due to be held in Granada, Spain, in February were also discussed, he said.

"The GCC and the EC have reached an initial agreement that forms an umbrella for any future talks," he said.

He said topics on the agenda of OPEC's next conference in Vienna were not raised during the meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

KUNA Cites 'Abd-Rabbuh on Delegation, Elections

LD2111115489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Nov 21 (KUNA)—Member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh last night stressed that the PLO is the only party that has the right to appoint and name the Palestinian delegation to any contact with Israel.

He stated here, that any dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli side has to have an open agenda with international participation, and should be considered a preliminary step toward the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

Elections in the occupied territories have to be linked to a complete political operation based on the Palestinian right to self determination that is embodied in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state according to the announcement made by the Palestine National Council in Algeria last November.

If elections are not linked to the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, these elections are only a cover up for Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza strip, and Jerusalem.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Broad Lines' of Baker Plan Reply

JN2111081689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The PLO, as yet, has not disclosed the contents of its official reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, a reply which the PLO had communicated to the Egyptian Government so that the latter would comunicate it to the U.S. Administration.

In spite of this, PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States, indirectly disclosed the broad lines of the PLO's official reply to Baker's plan. These broad lines are that the PLO will not task any party whatsoever to represent it in an eventual Israeli-Palestinian meeting, and that the PLO is the sole party qualified to appoint the members of the Palestinian delegation to such a meeting.

The Palestinian official emphasized the demand that the meeting's agenda be kept open for the discussion of any topic and that the dialogue should specifically be in preparation for the convocation of the international Middle East peace conference.

On elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, 'Abd-Rabbuh reaffirmed that the holding of these elections should be linked to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and should ultimately result in the establishment of the Palestinian state.

Hurani Outlines Basis of Reply

NC2111102889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has declared that the Palestinian political reply to the recent U.S. answers was primarily based on the resolutions and terms [dawabit] adopted by the Palestinian Central Council during its recent session in Baghdad.

In an interview published today in the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, the Palestinian official said PLO Executive Committee Secretary Jamal al-Surani will hand the reply to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who will in turn convey it to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Hurani pointed out that the first of these five terms stresses that the PLO alone has the right to form and name the Palestinian team to the talks. The second terms notes that the Palestinian position during the talks will be based on and adhere to the Palestinian peace initiative. The third term concerns setting the agenda for the meeting which must be held without any preconditions. The fourth term says that the meeting must be one of preliminary talks between the two sides and a step toward convening an effective international conference. The fifth term stresses the need for the meeting to be attended by delegations from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, and representatives of the other parties concerned, including Egypt and Sweden.

Hurani described the U.S. position as ambiguous. He said the United States is manuevering and does not want to commit itself to the PLO, while it is committing itself to giving Israel guarantees when the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is held.

Al-Surani on Baker Plan, Ties With Egypt

PM2111111489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 13

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Ashri] What is the PLO position on the latest Baker plan?

[Al-Surani] The Baker plan was thoroughly discussed at the 15 October meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] [as published, presumably meaning Palestine Central Council]. That plan came as a surprise because he had accepted Egypt's 10 points. We are still discusssing the points in Baker's plan. We have nothing concrete in this connection. When we have results we will announce them.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that, during his recent visit to Egypt, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat asked the Egyptian leaders to mediate with the United States with a view to amending some points in the Baker plan?

[Al-Surani] That did not happen. It is no secret that when 'Arafat met with President Mubarak in Cairo recently their agenda included Baker's five points. Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] told Mubarak that the Central Council discussed the plan but made no decision to reject or accept it and that the Executive Committee would study it and inform him of the final decision. We have not rejected or accepted it, nor has there been any amendment or clarification so far.

[Al-'Ashri] What is the truth about recent Egyptian-Palestinian differences?

[Al-Surani] There are no Egdyptian-Palestinian differences. Anyone wishing to fish in troubled waters should not imagine that there are differences between the two countries. It is necessary for people to know and become accustomed to the fact—and I say this to friends, rather than foes— that the Palestinian scene is democratic, and every Palestinian, whether an official or not, is entitled to express his views. The PLO has not reneged on any of

its decision and I challenge anyone to dispute that. The strange thing is that friends, enemies, and sometimes brothers, regard Palestinian democracy as division while at the same time maintaining that the diversity of views in Israel, the United States, and France reflect democratic societies. There is a minority and a majority in our decisionmaking. How would we [Arabs] ever achieve agreement if we were at odds with Egypt? There can be no Arab action without Egypt. Egyptian-Palestinian relations are good and there is constant coordination and consultation between the two sides. We have almost daily contacts.

[Al-'Ashri] How true are the claims that Egypt is putting pressure on the PLO to accept the peace proposals?

[Al-Surani] That is an old game. One day that they claim Egypt is exerting pressure, while another day Iraq is said to be exerting pressure, then Syria. That episode is over and done with. Nobody is putting pressure on us. For the record, I state that throughout its relations with us Egypt has never put pressure on us. The PNC passed certain resolutions on 15 November 1988, and these resolutions were approved by Egypt and the rest of the Arab states. So why should Egypt put pressure on us when there is an Arab summit resolution to which everyone is committed and when the Palestinian initiative has become an Arab initiative? Egypt is not a mediator for Israel nor is it an Israeli agent or hireling instructed to put pressure on us. There is a difference between Egypt's putting pressure on us and its coordinating with us. Coordination is a national and pan-Arab duty, and we also coordinate with Iraq and other Arab states.

[Al-'Ashri] It has been claimed that there is Egyptian-Palestinian disagreement over the limits of Egypt's role. Is this true, and what are the limits and scale of Egypt's role?

[Al-Surani] The limits of Egypt's role are the limits of the Arab role. Egypt acts within the framework of the Casablanca Arab summit resolutions, and so do we. These are the Egyptian, Palestinian, and Arab limits and efforts. That is the essence of Egypt's limits, particularly since there can be no peace or war without Egypt and there can be no stability without Egypt. Egypt is the balancing factor in the region. This should be understood by the United States, even more than Israel, and by the Soviet Union, even more than France. When it acts, it does so in accordance with its specified role. It refuses to remain silent in the face of Israeli troublemaking. The fire has reached its backyard. Palestine is Egypt's backyard. How can you feel safe at home when there is a fire in your backyard? The fire could reach and burn you. That is why Egypt is playing an active and effective role.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that 'Arafat is staking his leadership and political record on the line that he has chosen?

[Al-Surani] The trouble with the Arab mentality is that it imagines that Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] issues the orders and must be obeyed. Abu-'Ammar is not the head. He and we are partners. We are not his employees and he does not appoint us to our posts. We were elected to the Executive Committee by the PNC. I do not wish to portray Abu-'Ammar as an individual in control of Palestinian decisions. All initiatives are the Palestinian people's initiatives. Abu-'Ammar is the Executive Committee chairman. Under our regulations, the Executive Committee chairman is the PLO's official spokesman and whatever he says does not represent his own personal views. Yasir 'Arafat does not take personal initiatives. Initiatives are proposed and discussed within the PLO. Abu-'Ammar does not decide what is right and what is wrong on his own personal whim. The decisions are made by the PLO, and Abu-'Ammar implements these decisions.

[Al-'Ashri] In your view, would 'Arafat take political risks?

[Al-Surani] There is no such thing as a political adventure. There is give and take in politics. You could succeed and you could fail. It would be a political adventure if we were to stop the armed struggle and the intifadah [uprising] but the intifadah and the armed struggle are continuing, and for us there can be no adventures in politics. We know the nature and ferocity of our enemy and we know very well who provides that enemy with everything from missiles to bread, without which there would have never been an Israel.

[Al-'Ashri] The PLO knows in advance that the seven points agreed on at the Executive Committee's recent meeting in Cairo will be rejected by the United States and Israel, in which case you will be accused of aborting the peace efforts.

[Al-Surani] First, we did not submit 7, 9, or 5 points. We did not submit any points. If we ever submit any points we will be adhering to international law, in accordance with the UN charter and resolutions and in accordance with universal consensus, opposed only by Israel and regrettably the United States, which supports the Israeli position. If we propose something and it is rejected, it will be because the United States and Israel do not want to abide by international law. It is the other side which is rejecting.

[Al-'Ashri] Has Cairo accepted your points or clarifications?

[Al-Surani] We have not put forward any points recently. Cairo neither approves nor disapproves. It agrees only to what the PLO decides. I hope that is clear. Cairo has never declared itself a substitute for the PLO. President Mubarak himself said so recently. He said that Cairo accepts what the PLO accepts and that it is the PLO above all that is entitled to accept or reject. Also, anything said about the formation of the Palestinian delegation is the right of the PLO. Anything to the contrary is unfounded.

[Al-'Ashri] How true are the reports that the Egyptian leadership is annoyed because you leaked some points to the press in advance?

[Al-Surani] That is not true. The Egyptian leadership was not annoyed and, God willing, will never be annoyed.

Abu-Sharif: U.S. Policy Made by Bush, Not Israel

JN1811130289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Nov 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed his conviction that the PLO is passing through a delicate and sensitive stage while it waits for the United States to come into harmony with its principles. Asked by AL-ANBA' what the Palestinian leadership's position would be if the U.S. Administration's response to the PLO's requests—communicated through Egypt—is negative, Abu-Sharif said that the PLO is waiting for U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker to translate their real desire to find a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East into practical steps that would restore the Palestinian people's confidence that their right to self-determination, like that of other peoples in the world, is supported by the United States in accordance with its principles.

Abu-Sharif cast doubt on allegations that Washington's decisions are made in Tel Aviv. He noted that although we take into account the effects of the Zionist lobby and of Jewish groups in America, the U.S. president is the one who makes the decisions—for example, President Dwight Eisenhower's daring decision on the withdrawal of British, French, and Israeli forces from Sinai in 1956.

Asked about the next step, Abu-Sharif reiterated that the PLO has dealt with every idea presented for discussion with great wisdom. It dealt in the same way with every effort to prevent political developments in the Middle East from coming to a dead end.

In another interview with Radio Mediterranean, Abu-Sharif expressed his conviction that the situation in the Middle East will explode if the two superpowers do not find a solution to the Palestinian problem before the end of the year. Abu-Sharif said he expects the situation in the region to be at the top of the agenda of the American and Soviet presidents' coming Mediterranean summit.

'Arafat Receives Messages Various Leaders

Swedish Foreign Minister

JN1811115689 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Nov 18, INA—President Yasir 'Arafat of the State of Palestine received a message from Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson whose content was not disclosed.

The message was delivered by the Swedish ambassador in Tunis during his audience with President 'Arafat here last night.

President 'Arafat reviewed the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the Zionist oppressive measures against the Palestinian people.

'Important Message' From Italy

JN1911172789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has received an important message from the Italian Government. Brother Abu-'Ammar was handed the message when he received the Italian ambassador Friday night in Tunis. They reviewed the latest political developments in the Middle East, the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the organized acts of oppression and terrorism perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces against our people. The meeting was attended by Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi.

Message From Ghanaian Leader

LD2011221189 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Brother chairman and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] head of the State of Palestine, received an important message from Jerry Rawlings, president [as heard] of Ghana. Brother Abu-'Ammar received the message when he received in Tunis Mr Kojo Tsikata, vice president [as heard] of Ghana and member of the People's National Defense Council in charge of foreign affairs and security.

They reviewed the developments of the Palestinian issue and the escalation of organized state terrorism practised by the Zionists against our people.

Mr Kojo congratulated brother Abu-'Ammar on the proclamation of the State of Palestine, and reiterated Ghana's firm and principled support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and for their legitimate proven rights, including the right to return, self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Egypt

Envoy Brings 'Palestinian Answer' to Baker Plan

NC2011115289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani arrived here today as an envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership. Al-Surani is carrying the Palestinian answer to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals.

According to the Palestinian information bureau in Cairo, the Palestinian response will be conveyed to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his meeting with a Palestinian delegation. The delegation includes Jamal al-Surani; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, deputy ambassador [as received] and Fatah representative in Cairo.

Government Welcomes Sudan, SPLA Agreement

NC2011124089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1153 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the agreement announced by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter under which negotiations will begin between the Sudanese National Salvation Government and the rebel movement led by John Garang.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt considers this agreement as an important step on the road to peace and toward ending the war in the southern part of fraternal Sudan. He expressed the hope that peace, concord, and stability will prevail in the southern part of the Nile Valley, so that confidence may be restored between the north and south of the country and the Sudanese people's efforts mobilized for development and construction for a better future.

Iraq's Ramadan on Official Visit; Meets Mubarak

NC1911164889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan today. The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Following the meeting, Dr Sidqi said that the Iraqi official handed President Husni Mubarak a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and that President Mubarak handed the Iraqi official a message for President Husayn.

Concerning the issue of Egyptian workers in Iraq, Dr Sidqi said: We want to look ahead. The Iraqi official briefed President Mubarak on the positive solutions we arrived at yesterday regarding the Egyptian workers' remittances from Iraq. These real solutions are not complete but positive. The amounts due to Egyptian workers will be paid gradually until the problem is solved. In the case of those who have died, the amounts due to them will be reimbursed fully and in one payment.

Dr Sidqi added that tonight the Iraqi first deputy prime minister will state the amounts to be paid, indicating that the Iraqi official had stressed to President Mubarak that the solutions are very satisfactory.

Regarding the Egyptian workers in Iraq, the Iraqi official reiterated that Iraq welcomes these workers and that all the Egyptian returnees from Iraq returned by their own choice.

Dr Sidqi explained that Iraq currently faces special circumstances and that some Egyptians have not agreed to have their remittances reduced.

Dr Sidqi said that in light of the recommendations and assurances given by Ramadan, he is not worried about the plight of Egyptians in Iraq. He said: We are confident they will be paid in full, those who are still in Iraq and those who have returned recently without their full remittances.

Dr Sidqi said that Egypt was informed this morning that there is no longer a problem for Egyptian workers in Iraq who wish to return to Egypt.

Dr Sidqi urged Egyptians who wish to work abroad in any state to be sure there is work for them in these states by securing work contracts before leaving Egypt. Citizens who wish to travel abroad should view the responsible Egyptian authorities, whether they are in the Labor Ministry, the Emigration Ministry, or an Egyptian embassy, as being there to serve the citizens and their interests. All these measures are taken primarily to secure the safety and interests of the citizens.

Dr Sidqi stressed that the plight of Egyptians in Iraq is temporary and that the problem of remittances, which is considered the heart of the issue, has been solved. He said that all the amounts due until the end of this November [as heard] for companies operating in Iraq have been transferred.

Dr Sidqi said that during the meetings yesterday and during the meetings of the Egyptian-Iraqi committee, Ramadan stressed that the treatment received by Egyptians is not different from the treatment received by the Iraqis themselves and that there are laws and instructions from Iraqi leaders and officials on the treatment of Egyptians in Iraq.

Discusses Workers, Arab Affairs

NC2011124589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraq's first deputy prime minister, has said that certain quarters are trying to damage relations between the

Egyptian and Iraqi peoples and are using the delay in financial transfers by Egyptians working in Iraq as a pretext for causing trouble and fomenting hatred between the two peoples.

Speaking at a symposium held last night at Cairo University's faculty of economics and political sciences, Ramadan said that there has definitely been a delay in the transfer of Egyptian remittances. However, this was not done intentionally but was the result of the difficult situation in Iraq, a country which is short of hard currency because of additional burdens on its economy, he added.

Ramadan said that Iraq's debts have accumulated as a result of the military spending caused by the war. He noted that during 1986 and 1988 [as received] the Iraqi Army doubled both its personnel and materiel. The Iraqi Government, he stated, also faces the cost of reconstruction following the destruction caused by the war in addition to other public expenditures. He noted that the Iraqi citizen cannot bear an increase in taxes or any financial obligations and said that Iraq's debts are significantly greater than Egypt's.

Ramadan said that the problem of Egyptian remittances has the full attention of the Iraqi leadership. Iraqi leaders, he pointed out, have decided to postpone the payment of $12 million owed to a Swedish powdered milk company and sent this money to the al-Rafidayn Bank to finance transfers by Egyptian workers.

Concerning Egyptian POW's in Iran, Ramadan refused to give a definite account of their number, but said that six Arab countries have a total of 116 POW's in Iran. Egyptians make up 20 percent of this total, he said, adding that another Arab country, which he did not name, has three times as many POW's in Iran.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, Ramadan said that his country supports General Michel 'Awn and all the Lebanese parties that are trying to get the Syrian forces out of Lebanon. We are totally convinced, he said, that Lebanon's problems will persist so long as Syria has a firm hold on that country. The Syrian presence is a justification for the presence of Israeli and Iranian forces on Lebanese soil.

Ramadan said that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] supports the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. In actual dealings with the Syrian presence, he added, some differences surfaced in the assessment of the situation, but we share the same goal.

Concerning the ACC, Ramadan said that the conditions which brought Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic together have been favorable to the council's success. The steady progress in bilateral relations among these nations, he said, led to the quadrilateral relations which all ACC member countries try to promote to accelerate development and bring prosperity to their peoples.

Ramadan said that the good relations among the four ACC leaders have been instrumental in the success of their countries' cooperation. He noted that the ACC was not established to contain differences among its members, as was the case in earlier groupings.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said the four ACC leaders have considered the reasons for the failure of previous attempts at unity, chief among which was the lack of popular participation in the process of unity and the strident propaganda accompanying these attempts, which contradicted the actual purposes of unity. He noted that previous steps toward unity took place at the senior political level and away from the popular base.

Ends 3-Day Visit to Cairo

NC2011161289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and his delegation left Cairo this evening following an official 3-day visit.

During the visit, Ramadan conveyed a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak. He also chaired the Iraqi delegation during the meetings of the higher Egyptian-Iraqi committee.

Ramadan was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, several ministers, Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq Ibrahim 'Awf, and Iraqi Ambassador to Egypt Samir Najm.

'Abd-al-Majid Welcomes Cypriot President's Visit

NC1911145689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou's visit to Egypt which will begin tomorrow.

He said the visit is within the framework of friendly relations between Egypt and Cyprus and in response to an invitation from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Abd-al-Majid explained that Cyprus is a nonaligned country with whom Egypt is linked by strong ties. He stressed that the visit will provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on strengthening and cultivating bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, and international developments.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt considers Cyprus a unified state and believes that understanding should be reached between the Greek and Turkish communities and that problems should be solved by negotiations and in cooperation with the United Nations.

Regarding Egyptian-Cypriot coordination within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, 'Abd-al-Majid said that this cooperation is the result of the meeting of

nonaligned foreign ministers in Cyprus, where the Cypriot foreign minister headed a special committee tasked with developing the movement.

Cypriot President Arrives

NC2011103189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0949 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou arrived in Cairo this morning for a 3-day visit to Cairo at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. President Mubarak met the Cypriot president at Cairo airport. [passage omitted]

Ghali Leaves for Paris, 3-Country African Tour

NC2011162689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Paris today en route to a week-long tour of Morocco, Senegal, and Mauritania.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said that he will represent Egypt at the African-French summit conference to be held in Morocco from 23 to 25 November. The conference will discuss all aspects of cooperation between France and the African states.

Dr Ghali will then leave for Senegal and Mauritania, accompanied by the members of the African six-man committee tasked with [words indistinct].

Chief of Staff Leaves for Visit to UK

NC1911090189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shimaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, left Cairo this morning for London on a 6-day official visit to the UK. James Adams, the UK ambassador in Cairo, and a number of senior armed forces officers saw him off.

Agreement on Wheat Imports Signed With Australia

NC1811180189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Interview with Dr Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab, minister of supply and internal trade, by Zaynat al-Nahjahi carried within the "Dialogue on Today's Topic" program]

[Excerpt] [Al-Najahi] Can you elaborate on the agreement signed today between Egypt and Australia?

[Abu-al-Dhahab] Indeed, today we signed an agreement for 1990. It falls within the framework of an earlier agreement we signed about 2 months ago on wheat imports over the next 5 years. We agreed on the quantity and prices in today's accord. The negotiations were a little difficult because Australia's wheat harvest fell sharply this year as a result of the drought it suffered last year. However, in light of the friendship between us and the Australian wheat board, it was agreed to import 1.5 million tons of wheat in 1990 at prices approximately $3.50 per ton below current market prices. [passage omitted]

PLO To Name Delegation to Talks With Israel

JN1911202789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Nov 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Dissipated Time"]

[Text] Call No 48, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah in the occupied territory to mark the proclamation of the Palestinian state, expressly and unequivocally gives the PLO the right to name and announce the delegation to any kind of talks with Israel to prepare the international conference.

This recurrent declaration makes nonsense of Tel Aviv's and Washington's futile search for alternative representatives to speak for the Palestinians in preference to the PLO. Washington and Tel Aviv have left no stone unturned in their drive to see the PLO exluded—but to no avail. This is when news media and world statesmen and politicians, even in Israel and the United states, have stated that attempts to bypass the PLO are a waste of time, as it is inevitably the PLO that will name the delegation to the talks. Looking for Palestinians from outside the PLO is an idle, futile exercise that takes no account of reality. Any observer conversant with the fundamentals of the Middle East situation will come to the same conclusion.

Israel's objective has all along been to quell the intifadah with all the might at its disposal, and all the while has been courting local Palestinian leaders so they would pull the rug from under the PLO by coming forward as substitute negotiating partners. These feverish and venomous attempts to split Palestinian ranks have proved unsuccessful and, to this day, the intifadah has continued to speak with one voice. The PLO has the exclusive right to speak for the Palestinians—both those inside and outside the occupied territory.

The call of the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah comes to back the PLO Central Council which recently convened in Baghdad to elucidate the seven points worked out by the PLO Executive Committee at its Cairo meeting. Both emphasize that the PLO has the sole right to name the delegates to the projected talks with Israel. How much longer will the Israelis and Americans keep attempting to deny the obvious!?

Arabs Blamed for Pushing Ethiopia Toward Israel

JN2011204889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Nov 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Arabs Are Primarily Responsible"]

[Text] Ever since Ethiopia resumed relations with Israel, there have been reports on developments taking place between the two sides in issues of interest to the Arabs such as the immigration of the rest of the Falasha Jews to Israel, the granting of shipping facilities to Israel in Ethiopian territorial waters in the Red Sea, and the military cooperation between the two. The resumption of relations between Israel and Ethiopia, and the developments that have preceded and will follow the reestablishment of these relations, stem from Ethiopia's need for military trainers after the Cubans' departure and for agricultural expertise and Western assistance following the Soviets' decision to reduce their assistance to Ethiopia. Therefore, Israel suggested taking on the role of a broker to enable Ethiopia to obtain them.

In addition to Israel's endeavors and Ethiopia's needs, the Arabs strongly pushed Ethiopia toward Israel by sitting back with folded arms as Ethiopians starved. The Arabs extended only $2.9 million to Ethiopia from 1975 to 1983, whereas the Arab aid extended to countries friendly to Israel, like Kenya and Zaire, was respectively 17 and 16 times that amount during the same period. Arab policies toward Ethiopia, with the exception of Egypt's, have been characterized by indifference. The resumption of Israeli-Ethiopian relations is a logical result of that stance. If we want a more rational policy toward Ethiopia to foil any Israeli exploitation and establish relations of cooperation with that country, the Arabs must extend effective assistance to Ethiopia to confront starvation and obtain a stable food situation.

Egypt should also contribute to that assistance by providing agricultural expertise to help Ethiopia improve its agricultural and food situation in order to block Israel's efforts in this direction. It also should do its best to mediate to solve the Eritrean problem on the basis of a thorough understanding of the nature of this problem in order to reduce Ethiopia's problems and improve its relations with the Arabs.

Indictments in Al-Rayan Fraud Case Announced

JN1811181989 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The Public Prosecutor Jamal Shuman yesterday announced the indictment in the Al-Rayan case, listing 13 suspects with Ahmad, Tawfiaq, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Rayan as the principal defendants. The public prosecutor ordered them referred to the Cario Criminal Court to stand trial on charges that include their refusal to return money owed to depositors, their failure to submit to the general authority of the stock exchange legal notifications showing the amounts they received in various currencies and their omission to transfer offshore deposits to accredited Egyptian banks.

At a 2-hour news conference, the public prosecutor said the suspects have defrauded 188 thousand families under the cover of Islamic shari'a-based transactions and the attraction of high interest rates. The suspects swindled the depositors out of the equivilant of 1.715 billion Egyptian pounds at attachment, now worth 1.882 billion Egyptian pounds.

The public prosecutor said the prosecution created 286 committees since the investigation began to make an inventory of the Al-Rayan funds. The committees were surprised to find that the balance of all the Al-Rayan firms accounts in the banks was zero. Only 520,000 Egyptian pounds and $30,000 was traced in the company branches. The inquiries revealed that al-Rayan company officials failed to submit reports on the financial position or documents or the statements required for audits to fulfil their task with a view to misleading them on the true financial status of the company.

The public prosecutor said the suspects were engaged in corrupt practices and caused immense losses to depositors. Citing examples, he said they withdrew 80 million pounds and transferred the sum abroad without submitting documents. They also withdrew 100 million pounds to enter into transactions for themselves without obtaining the permission of the Al-Rayan Company's general assembly. They also transferred to a company in London $80 million, which they entered in their records as $3 million. They also lost half a billion Egyptian pounds in a commandite, debiting depositors for the sum.

The public prosecutor added that the suspects took uncalculated risks in stock exchange markets without reference to the depositors' interests or botherning to invest their funds. Instead they indulged themselves, lavishly spending the depositors funds, driving the most luxurious cars, and buying mansions. He cited another example of Al-Rayan paying several million pounds of depositors' money to purchase a villa and then renting it out to himself for 50 pounds. He presented a villa to one of his wives and paid 300,000 pounds to retrieve it after giving her a divorce.

The public prosecutor said the state prosecution has succeeded in recovering 68 million pounds and FR800,000 and $400,000 worth of shares. The prosecution, he added, is running productive projects of Al-Rayan to avoid laying off 1,000 workers. The state prosecution also decided that the investment trustees directorship must forswear their right to oversee the administration of the company to depositors. It has also been decided to form a higher committee under the ministers of justice, foreign affairs, and economy with the participation of General Intelligence and the Central Bank to keep track of the funds of the capital investment companies deposited abroad, since it emerged from investigations that Al-Rayan maintains funds abroad as follows: $44 million in Swiss banks, $78 million and DM10 million in the Federal Republic of Germany, $131 million in England, and $161 million in American banks. This is in addition to 3 companies in England and agricultural land in the United States. The public proscutor called on the criminal court to rule that Al-Rayan's underage children, his wives, and his divorcees

should be required to return the funds they have been bequeathed or have been acquired criminally by the Al-Rayan family. [passage omitted]

'Bright Star' Joint Maneuvers Completed

NC1811165989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian and U.S. Armed Forces have completed the joint maneuvers they began last Saturday as part of the joint training conducted by the two countries' forces every 2 years under the name "Bright Star."

These maneuvers achieved their planned goals within the framework of Egypt's policy to conduct joint training with developed countries. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Gorbachev

LD2111103189 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received yesterday the Soviet ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah handing him a letter addressed to the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the bilateral relations between both countries and the international situation.

It is known that Great Jamahiriyah strongly protests against the meeting due to take place on board U.S. and Soviet warships in the Mediterranean Sea at the beginning of next month.

Great Jamahiriyah has warned that such a meeting is uncivilized, disturbing to the peoples of the Mediterranean Sea, carries a threat and is considered a sight from both World War I and II.

The place in which the meeting between President Bush and Gorbachev will meet is the same place the U.S. 6th Fleet took off in its attack against the Libyan Arab people in Al-Tayr [April] 1986, when from this fleet the war planes took off to fire their missiles on our homes killing children, women, and innocent old people.

JANA came to know that the letter from the leader to President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union may carry a hint to the recent disturbing announcement by terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir the Zionist enemy's prime minister [word indistinct] that there are a million Jews to immigrate from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih revolution proposed at the non-aligned summit in Belgrade that if there must be a gathering place for Jews, there are secure and suitable regions for them such as Alsace and Lorraine especially after the recent developments Germany [word indistinct] new signs had emerged that might cause a new war between the German nation and France. Gathering the Jews in such a place will act as a barrier between the two countries. Also Alaska, one of the Baltic republics, and not to mention the state which was for the Jews in the Volga River for hundreds of years. As for Palestine, it has no relations with the Jews or whoever took Judaism as a religion or any other religion. Great Jamahiriyah hopes that such a meeting between Bush and Gorbachev will result in the departure of both the Soviet and the American fleets from the Mediterranean Sea and also the withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Mediterranean Sea and from the states stretched around this sea.

Great Jamahiriyah also hopes that West Germany be given its freedom as the Soviet Union has given freedom to East Germany in self-determination.

Great Jamahiriyah has confidence in the Soviet side in such meeting at the same time it asserts that it has no confidence in the American side which still practices the policies of threat and interference, talks in the language of force, and interferes in the affairs of others.

Egyptian Health Minister Signs Protocol Agreement

LD1611221789 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—At noon today signing took place on a protocol agreement between the General People's Committee for Health in Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The protocol agreement was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar the health minister in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The agreement provides for cooperation in the fields of: manpower, medicine industry, medical equipment, sending the sick to be treated in Egypt, provide as a loan medical highly specialised cadres to work at health institutions in Great Jamahiriyah, training, higher education, transfer of expertise and technology, exchanges of experts, the qualification of natural cadres, exchange of information in various medical fields, the participation of the public company for import of medicine and medical equipment in Great Jamahiriyah in the activity of the Egyptian medicine sector, joint cooperation in qualifying and preparing health medium-level and high-level curriculum, joint researches on common diseases and cooperation in health education and guidance.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD1611223789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar, the Egyptian health minister, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this afternoon following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Duwaydar made a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he began expressing his happiness as well as his accompanying delegation's happiness at their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah which has been crowned by the signing of the minutes for health cooperation for the joint benefit of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The health minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt added: "We came to the Great Jamahiriyah with open hearts to work together toward the Arab man's prosperity with the aim of attaining the common interest of the one Arab people in the Jamahiriyah and Egypt."

Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar pointed out, in his statement, that what was signed today was an implementation of the agreement reached by the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at their meetings in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

At the end of his statement, the Egyptian health minister hailed the colossal civilised achievements of the Libyan Arab people—thanks to the great 1 September revolution—in all fields, particularly the health ones.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2011205789 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth 20 [20 November], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Sahabazada Yaqub Khan, the minister of foreign affairs in Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Foreign Minister Hails Ties With Ivory Coast

AB1511221089 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Morocco and Ivory Coast have identical views on the great regional and international problems. This was affirmed today in Morocco by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali at the opening of the proceedings of the Ivory Coast-Morocco joint commission for cooperation meeting. Mr Filali added that the solidity and depth of the ties of friendship and esteem that link President Houphouet-Boigny and King Hassan II of Morocco are precious conditions that should encourage the two countries to reinforce and widen the scope of bilateral cooperation.

The Moroccan foreign minister expressed the hope that the authorities of the two countries will pool resources to find ways and means to intensify and diversify commercial exchanges between Morocco and Ivory Coast. He also asked the experts to renew a certain number of agreements between the two countries in the fields of tourism, commerce, agriculture, cadres training, and maritime and air transport. The Ivorian delegation to Morocco is led by Foreign Minister Simeon Ake. The first session of the Ivory Coast-Morocco joint commission meeting took place in Abidjan in 1980.

Filali Receives New Jordanian Ambassador

LD1811190989 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0920 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Rabat, 18 November—Abdellatif Filali minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, today [18 November] received the new Jordanian ambassador in Rabat, Qasim Muhammad Hasan al-Ghazzawi.

The Jordanian diplomat handed Filali a copy of his credentials during the meeting.

Senegal Forces Minister Arrives on Visit

AB1611220989 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Our minister of armed forces is in Morocco for a visit, the duration of which was not immediately known. On his arrival today in Rabat, Medoune Fall stated that his visit to the Kingdom of Morocco is aimed at pursuing the contact and consultations between leaders of the two countries on issues of common interest both at the regional and international levels.

Member of Socialist Union Party Pardoned

LD1811172989 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Rabat, 18 November—The Moroccan daily 'AL-ITTIHAD AL-ICHTIRAKI' [Socialist Union of Popular Forces newspaper] reports that King Hassan II has pardoned Mohamed Ait Kaddour, a member of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party Central Committee. The newspaper added that at 1230 on 16 November, Mr Ait Kaddour was released and was welcomed outside the prison in Sale by Mohamed Elyazghi and (Habib Elcherkaoui), members of the party's political bureau, and some members of the party's central committee and parliamentary group.

The Moroccan monarch received Abderrahim Bouabid, first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party on 15 November.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Briefs Press on Carter Meeting

EA2011121589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has confirmed Sudan's readiness to hold negotiations with Garang's movement at any time and place.

His excellency said in a press statement, following his meeting with the former U.S. President [Jimmy Carter] yesterday [18 November] that the recommendations and resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace issues will be an agenda for this dialogue.

His excellency said he briefed Carter on the recommendations of the conference, explaining that Carter described these recommendations as excellent and that, through them, it is possible to solve various issues. His excellency said he explained the details of these recommendations, which can be discussed within the framework of the dialogue with the rebel movement separately.

The chairman of the NSRCC said the former U.S. President Carter explained to him that he will meet the leaders of Garang's movement within the framework of the efforts of the peace operations [as heard] in Sudan.

Lt Gen 'Umar explained that his meeting with Carter touched on Ethiopian-Sudanese relations. His excellency confirmed Sudan's readiness to remove all the remaining factors tarnishing relations between the two countries. He also confirmed Sudan's readiness to contribute toward solving the Eritrean issue, pointing out the necessity of cooperation to reach solutions to the issues of the region, so that officials may devote themselves to development issues.

SPLA Cites Al-Bashir 'Lies' on Bombing

EA1511182989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has described 'Umar al-Bashir's denial over the BBC in his own voice that the planes that bombed Yirol and Waat were Sudanese as absurd. The spokesman said: 'Umar al-Bashir's performance over the BBC was unbecoming of a head of state and an insult to the Sudan. 'Umar al-Bashir knows, the Sudanese Air Force [SAF] Khartoum Army General Headquarters knows that the planes that bombed Yirol and Waat belong to the SAF and they were acting under orders from the deputy chief of staff for operations. Why then, does 'Umar al-Bashir lie so blatantly over the domestic and international media? It would have been best for 'Umar al-Bashir to openly admit that he is the one who did the bombing. The denial is not even in the interest of the general.

'Umar al-Bashir's denial leads to three inescapable logical implications, all damaging to 'Umar al-Bashir's junta. The first conclusion is that it is the SAF that bombed Yirol and Waat on the junta's orders and 'Umar al-Bashir is simply lying to deny it. We know this to be the case and this lying has very serious political meanings for peace as it means 'Umar al-Bashir is not credible; he cannot be trusted.

The second implication is that the SAF bombed Yirol and Waat, but 'Umar al-Bashir and his high command did not sanction the bombing nor did they know about the bombing in advance. This conclusion of course would mean that the junta is not in command of their Air Force and, again, this has serious political meanings for peace as it would mean there is a military coup d'etat under way.

The third implication is that it was not the SAF that bombed Yirol and Waat, but a foreign power. Again, this has serious political meanings for peace, as this would mean that the Sudan is infiltrated by a foreign power or powers and the question is: Which foreign power or powers did the bombing?

Clearly, 'Umar al-Bashir's denial of the bombing of Yirol and Waat has very serious implications. A related statement of 'Umar al-Bashir is even more damaging. 'Umar al-Bashir said that he has suspended all relief flights to southern Sudan because he is investigating who did the bombing of Yirol and Waat and that he does not want to expose foreign relief workers to these unidentified planes that bombed SPLA-controlled town in the south.

To what extent is 'Umar al-Bashir going to lie to the Sudanese people and to the world? We challenge 'Umar al-Bashir to disclose the result of his investigation as to whose planes bombed Yirol and Waat, or does 'Umar al-Bashir think that the Sudanese people and the world will simply forget his BBC interview and let bygones be bygones? 'Umar al-Bashir has no credibility. He lies. He cannot be trusted. He is a shame to Sudan, concluded the official spokesman of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA.

SPLA on Bombing, Relief 'Disaster' in South

EA1611201889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] We comment on Al-Bashir's bombing of relief centers. What is the limit to his atrocious behavior?

Yesterday, Wednesday 15th, Moyo town was bombed by military jet fighters. Moyo lies about 18 km inside Uganda from the Sudan-Uganda border. Eyewitnesses, some of them relief workers, saw the jets coming from Sudan. The junta in Khartoum was quick to deny its involvement in the incident. This action comes after the recent bombing of Yirol and Waat in southern Sudan—all these bombings being within 2 weeks of each other. Following the first bombing, Al-Bashir immediately issued a ban on relief flights into southern Sudan and ordered the halting of trains and river barges ferrying food to the needy population under the pretext that his regime is investigating the incident to find out who did the bombing.

Such an irresponsible statement simply adds insult to injury. Everybody knows very well that the planes belong to Al-Bashir's Air Force and they took off from Wadi Sayyidna air base, under his orders to bomb innocent civilian populations in these towns. What these towns

have in common is that they are relief centers serving the hungry population in southern Sudan. Two of them, Yirol and Waat, are recipients of relief food and non-food items, and the third, Moyo, is a point from which relief is supplied to southern Sudan. The intention of Al-Bashir is therefore obvious—that is, to deny the hungry population urgently needed relief items, especially food, by scaring off relief agencies and all those involved in this noble humanitarian work.

In this atrocious behavior Al-Bashir finds encouragement from the absolute silence of the governments and other forces involved in relief work. Some apologists were even quoted as saying that the ban on flights, barges, and trains will not affect the population very much as most of what was to be taken in were non-food items.

The facts of the situation on the ground are very much different. First, great need for food still exists and in some places the situation is almost reaching disaster proportions. The reason for this is that crops failed this year in the areas in question for a combination of effects caused by drought, birds, or insects. Field reports from the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, and the World Food Program, WFP, confirm this situation.

Second, the trains and for the last two convoys, the barges on the Nile have been carrying only food relief, namely dhurrah, that is sorghum. If the food was not needed urgently, why were the trains and barges loaded and ready to move until Al-Bashir stopped them?

It is absolutely necessary to state these facts so that nobody is deceived by the transparent lie that food needs were not critical when Al-Bashir issued his orders to stop relief activities. There was need and still is need.

The inescapable conclusion from Al-Bashir's criminal acts of bombing relief centers is that he is bent on starving the population in southern Sudan and other areas under SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] administration. His asinine tactics of bombing population centers while continuing to deny that his planes and men are involved in the bombings cannot be told even to the most ignorant of the situation in Sudan. Indeed it is an insult to human intelligence.

When he staged his coup, 'Umar Al-Bashir thought he could dupe the world by hiding his Islamic fundamentalist character but, as we all know, it did not take long before his real color emerged. Al-Bashir believes the same regarding the relief situation. He is a master in self-delusion and nothing short of worldwide condemnation will bring him to his senses. Let us all in unison tell him that enough is enough. The entire international opinion should stand up to Al-Bashir, not only to condemn his criminal acts against civilians, but also to pressure him into stating clearly where he stands on the issue of relief.

SPLA Spokesman Comments on Daily Air Raids

EA1611163589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] And here is some news just in: The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has confirmed to Radio SPLA that the jets that bombed Moyo inside Uganda are the same planes that have been bombing SPLA-held towns recently. They had bombed Kajo Kaji [in Sudan] twice on different days before they bombed Uganda yesterday. The spokesman said the junta has timed their military offensive to coincide with the diplomatic offensive, adding that six towns—Yirol, Waat, (Adong), Akot, Kajo Kaji, and Rumbek in the south—have been bombed over the last 2 weeks, while in the north SPLA positions in Blue Nile and Kurdufan are being bombed every day by air and by multiple rocket artillery. Yet the junta without a shudder of shame tells the world that these are not their planes and that they do not know who is doing the bombing.

The spokesman said the movement has definite information that the jet fighters that have been bombing SPLA positions belong to the Sudanese Air Force [SAF] and to one foreign country that has been operating together with the SAF for the last 3 weeks. A second foreign country has contributed pilots, but not planes.

About the bombing of Moyo, the spokesman said there is no doubt that this was carried out by the Sudanese Air Force for reasons better known to the junta. The spokesman said the SPLA will not comment on the bombing of Moyo, since this is an issue between Khartoum and Kampala.

On Rumbek, the spokesman denied that the SPLA attacked Rumbek. It was the junta that tried to advance on Yirol. Everyone has heard of the bombing of Yirol. This was the beginning of the fighting. The junta's infantry advanced while the Air Force and artillery provided fire cover and support. The junta's advance was intercepted and halted about 15 km from Rumbek on the road to Yirol. Fighting lasted 2 days and the junta's advance was beaten back into Rumbek town, where fighting continues until today.

The SPLA, after beating back the junta's advance, occupied most of Rumbek town, including the police, prisons, and province headquarters. The junta's forces are now holed up only in two places—at the commissioner's house and Rumbek Senior Secondary School—and they will be dislodged in the next few days. Rescue is out of the question either from Wau or Rumbek; no rescue force can reach Rumbek. Rescue by air is also impossible, as the SPLA is in occupation of the whole of the rest of Rumbek.

Yesterday the junta attempted to parachute supplies to their miserable soldiers at the commissioner's house and Rumbek Senior [School], but the gallant forces of (Konanok) took all the six parachutes after fierce fighting over the parachutes. The junta will pay for their foolish

attempt to advance on Yirol and for the bombing of Yirol. The junta's remnants left in Rumbek will be destroyed.

Asked about Khartoum's claims that they have killed 600 SPLA soldiers and captured 400 AKM rifles, the spokesman denied this and said it was a very clumsy way to try to raise the morale of the troops in Rumbek and in southern Blue Nile and of the Army in general. Khartoum's claim is a complete lie like the rest of their lies that they are investigating who bombed Yirol when it was they who did it.

In Nasir, Kapoeta, Torit, etc, Khartoum claimed they had inflicted untold casualties on the SPLA, but then, soon after, these towns fell. In Rumbek it was the junta that tried to advance on Yirol and they got an excellent bloody nose, leaving lots of their dead behind as they retreated back into Rumbek. How could they count SPLA dead bodies while they were running? How can they count SPLA casualties when they are unable to take six parachutes thrown 500 metres from their trenches?

The official spokesman has again condemned the junta's stopping of relief flights to southern Sudan. The spokesman said it was simply untrue that the junta stopped relief flights in order to investigate who bombed Yirol and Watt.

The junta knows who bombed Yirol and Watt. It is the junta that did it. The spokesman said it is not only relief flights that the junta has stopped. The junta has also stopped relief trains. The junta has also stopped relief barges on the river Nile. The spokesman asked the junta to give an explanation of why they stopped relief trains and relief barges. The SPLM/SPLA asks the OAU, the UN and the international community to persuade 'Umar al-Bashir to allow relief flights to resume, to let the relief trains and the relief barges to go. He is using food relief as a weapon. The SPLA is strongly opposed to the use of food as a weapon. We ask the international community to condemn the use of food as a weapon in the present war in the Sudan.

Khartoum, SPLA To Open Peace Talks 1 Dec

AB1911121589 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Nov 19 (AFP)—Peace talks between the Khartoum government and Sudanese rebels are to open in Nairobi on December 1, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced here Sunday.

Ex-President Carter, who arrived from Addis Ababa, said he had met Saturday in Khartoum with Sudanese ruler General 'Umar al-Bashir and late the same day (eds: correct) in the Ethiopian capital with John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Both sides had agreed to talks without pre-conditions, he said. Previous negotiations held in August lasted only two days and ended without agreement on a date for resumption.

Hostilities broke out again in Sudan in mid-October after an effective ceasefire of around six months.

The SPLA, which won a string of military victories earlier this year, has again taken the upper hand in current fighting, taking five garrison towns in the past few weeks in Blue Nile Province.

Mr. Carter described the agreement for talks as "very encouraging news" saying that extensive combat in the south of Sudan had led to a suspension of the relief supply flights, which were "desperately needed."

"We hope this effort will be successful and lead to long, extended, and substantive talks," he said.

Mr. Carter said Gen. al-Bashir, who took power in Khartoum on June 30, had told him that the head of the government delegation would be Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifa, of Sudan's Revolutionary Council.

Col. Garang had not named his head of delegation but indicated he would appoint someone at an equivalent level.

The talks would be on the basis of the recommendations of the six-week "so-called" Khartoum peace conference endorsed Saturday as the official government position and four points put forward by the SPLA in August, he said. [passage omitted]

Mr Carter arrived here Sunday to act as chairman in preliminary peace talks to resume Monday between the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which began in Atlanta, Georgia in September.

Foreign Minister Blames Rebels for Fighting

EA1611090089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum—The foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has expressed hope that friendly countries will exert all possible pressure on the rebel movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] to (?force) it to enter into negotiations for peace and stability that will lay the groundwork for national reconstruction in [word indistinct].

In a press statement today the foreign minister said that condemnation of the resumption of fighting in Sudan by friendly countries should be directed to the movement because it was the first to violate the cease-fire which the government had so carefully [words indistinct] by month. The minister added that the government's responsibility to safeguard the homeland's peace, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the peace of its citizens should not be (?ignored).

The foreign minister said that many of those dealing with the problem of southern Sudan had the wrong impression and were making the mistake equating the government's initiatives and policies aimed at finding peaceful and just solutions to Sudan's problems, in particular the southern problem, with the behavior of the rebel movement. The rebels are bent on placing (?hindrances) and obstacles in the way of the government's (?endeavors) and its efforts to achieve those goals, the foremost of which is [words indistinct] the results and recommendations of the national peace dialogue conference which were rejected by the movement.

Mr Sahlul said that the government had carried out all its pledges to facilitate the smooth and successful implementation of the first phase of operation lifeline, that the government was discharging its responsibilities towards migrants and the victims of the southern problem, and that the government was also committed and determined to carry out successfully the second phase of the operation so as to provide the relief citizens in those areas required.

The foreign minister thanked the U.S Administration and the EEC states for constantly (?following up) and paying attention to developments affecting Sudan. His excellency reiterated Sudan's commitment to human rights and to the fair treatment of those detained for corruption. He said the government would release all political detainees whose innocence was proved.

Sudanese Information Minister Grants Interview

NC1711171189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Shummu has emphasized that relations between President Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS], are deeply rooted. He praised political and economic relations between Egypt and Sudan, noting that they have made significant progress.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent, Minister Shummu said that President Mubarak is playing a prominent role as OAU chairman and as an older brother who is interested in the establishment of peace in Sudan. He remarked in this context that Sudan's security reflects on Egypt and vice versa. He also noted that President Mubarak is mediating effectively with African and other countries to help establish peace in Sudan.

Touching on media cooperation between the two countries, 'Ali Shummu said that cooperation in that sector is developing actively and that it will gain momentum in the fields of television, radio, press distribution, training, and news agencies.

On the RCC stand on the Garang movement, he said: Garang is taking a very negative stand. His occupation of Kurmuk despite all calls for peace can only be understood as displaying a clear rejection of peace and a preference for military solutions.

However, Shummu added, we have not lost hope and peace is still our top priority. Channels of communications are still open with our neighbors, brothers, and friends to persuade Garang to negotiate on a solution to the problem, he said.

Minister Shummu noted that several powers are backing the Garang movement. These powers include certain socialist and Latin American countries, such as Cuba, in addition to the World Council of Churches, the major supporter of the movement, and some neighboring countries.

Touching on relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, Shummu noted that relations were good until Ethiopia allowed the rebels to use its territory as a base for the attack on Kurmuk. He expressed the hope that relations will return to normal, adding that these relations are very important. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese information minister remarked that it is too early for the return of a multiparty system in Sudan, adding that the previous regime had failed to fulfill its duties. He expressed the opinion that Sudan needs a new type of regime. We are discussing the correct political system for the next stage and nothing has been settled in this regard, he said.

Ministry Statement Condemns Israeli Action

EA1411181689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement about the action of the Zionist occupation authorities laying the foundation stone for the so-called New Solomon Temple near the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The text of the statement follows:

The Zionist regime has embarked upon a new attempt to provoke the Islamic world by laying the foundation stone for what is calls the renovation of the New Solomon Temple near the Al-Aqsa Mosque in noble Jerusalem. This dream has obsessed the pillars of the Zionist regime for a long time as a political trick, the aim of which is to gather the sections of the Jews of the world with their interconflicting cultural and social affiliations.

The features of this criminal act have been apparent since Zionist occupation authorities engaged in excavations in the sanctuary of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two kiblahs and the second [as heard] of the two holy places. This has begun to threaten the pillars of this holy building. This has been acknowledged by experts of the international organization, UNESCO.

Moreover, these authorities at an earlier time tried to burn the Al-Aqsa mosque during a calamitous night recalled by history with great grief and bitterness. What the Zionist occupation authorities have set out to do is to goad the spirits of the world's Muslims and everything

important to them by way of religious sanctities, and of course to stir up the feelings of the Muslims. This is a naked threat to Islam and Islamic beliefs.

The Government of the Republic of Sudan, known for its steadfast respect for all religious sanctities, condemns this reckless act absolutely, and calls upon the peoples and their governments of the world and all international institutes and organizations to act immediately to halt this act of aggression, which is bound to ignite the fires of strife in a region which has been consumed by the inhuman practices of the Zionists to the degree that international peace and security are threatened.

Sudan calls upon the international community as represented in the UN to investigate this provocative course of action, and to take all forms of urgent action to halt it, which will guarantee respect for the feelings of the world's Muslims and to prevent the fall of all the religious sanctities as victims of the disease spread by religious fanatics.

Foreign Minister Regrets Ethiopia, Israel Ties

EA1611185989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Mr 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister, has expressed regret at Ethiopia's restoration of diplomatic relations with the Israel enemy. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, he said such a move was likely to facilitate the Israeli enemy's penetration of Africa and the encirclement of the Arab world from the south.

In his press statement, Mr Sahlul said that the diplomatic initiative toward the Arab homeland and neighboring African states was being steadily implemented. Practical steps were being taken according to the policy of the National Salvation Revolution. He said: We are striving to consolidate Sudan's relations with all other states and to activate the agreements and protocols which have been concluded with some of them.

Kassiano Says Army 'In Control' in South

EA1611212389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Councils, met at his office at the Republican Palace today Muhammad Taqiy al-Din al-Shirbini, the Arab Republic of Egypt ambassador to Sudan, with whom he discussed the revolution's efforts to bring peace to Sudan. Brig Dominic confirmed that the Armed Forces were in control of the situation in the places where they were stationed in the south. The ambassador said that during the meeting he had been briefed on the situation in the south of the country with particular reference to the question of increasing the number of places for southern students in Egypt.

Islamic Program for Prison Inmates Established

EA1611135189 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum 16 Nov (SUNA)—Sixteen inmates at Omdurman Prison have embraced Islam recently. The prison authorities yesterday organized celebrations to mark the occasion, in the presence of national capital commissioner Brig Muhammad 'Uthman Sa'id.

Brig Sa'id, addressing the occasion, said contacts will be made with authorities concerned to generalize a program regarding Isamic da'wa (Islamic call) in the country's prisons.

He has donated Islamic (Sudanese pounds) 500 for each of the 16 inmates.

Paper Says Garang in Israel for Arms Supplies

EA1511091489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-INGADH AL-WATANI [NATIONAL SALVATION] published the following headlines on its first page: Garang visits Israel and requests to be supplied with a Western Defense system, and to receive training for 10 pilots; Soviet-made tanks in the rebel movement for attacking the major towns in the south.

Kuwait

Emergency Aid Extended to PLO for Food

JN1411150089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Nov p 1

[By Yusuf 'Alawinah]

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has learned that Kuwait last month extended 1.5 million dinars to the PLO in the form of urgent aid used to purchase quantities of rice, sugar, and flour from the world market for Palestinian areas, which have been suffering as a result of the escalating Israeli repression against the intifadah.

The sources explained that this Kuwaiti aid, which was added to the routine Kuwaiti support to the PLO and the Palestinian people, has prevented a serious shortage of foodstuffs in some areas, which have been subject to a long period of Israeli economic blockade and heavy taxation.

OIC Calls for Support for Palestinian People

LD1511120389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1129 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 15 (KUNA)—The Organisation of Islamic Conference has called upon all states and freedom-loving people to shoulder their responsibility in halting Israel's repressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied lands.

The appeal was made by the 46-member organisation in a statement issued here last night marking the first anniversary of proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, being celebrated today.

The statement, issued by OIC Secretary Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid praised the positive developments of the Palestinian cause at the world level since the proclamation of independence one year ago, adding this testifies to the wise policy followed by the PLO leadership in tackling the problem.

It hailed the valiant popular uprising which has been ongoing in the occupied lands since 1987 and extolled the iron will and indomitable courage shown by the Palestinian people in defending their right to their land and statehood.

Hoping that the great sacrifices given and still being offered by the Palestinian people would be crowned with liberation of their homeland, establishment of independent Palestine and hoisting of the Palestinian flag over the capital, Jerusalem, the statement urged the entire Muslim nation to extend necessary support to the Intifadah in order to continue and attain its final goal.

The OIC also appealed to the international community for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem through convening the international peace conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council will participate and all concerned parties to the conflict, including the PLO, sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Amir Receives Ortega's Envoy, Message

JN1511104889 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 nov 89

[Text] His highness the amir of the country received Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's envoy at 1015 today. The Nicaraguan envoy conveyed a message to his highness the amir from his excellency the Nicaraguan president.

Study Shows Rise in Locals in Government Posts

JN1711082689 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 13 Nov 89 p 9

[Excerpt] There are 64,203 Kuwaitis out of a total of 144,286 employees in ministries and government agencies in Kuwait. This means that Kuwaitis form 44.5 per cent of the total staff.

The figures were given in a study submitted by the assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs at the Civil Service Commission, Dr Nasir al-Sani', to the Conference on Manpower Management organised by the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Administrative Development Institute.

The study stressed that in 1957 Kuwaitis were 206,000 in number and formed 55 per cent of the population. But in 1989 the Kuwaitis formed only 27.95 per cent of a total population of about 1,915,000.

The study reviewed the means and policies implemented in Kuwait for Kuwaitising government posts. These mainly consisted of the replacement of expatriates in supervisory jobs, such as positions of director and controller unit head. Kuwaitis now held 66 per cent of such posts.

The study underlined the government's attention to higher education graduates who had been groomed, to meet local demand and many will be sent abroad for post-graduate specialisation, bringing the total number of graduates up to 1988 to 18,365, of whom 7,153 graduated while on scholarships abroad, and 11,212 graduated from Kuwait University.

Education [subhead]

The study stated that the budget allocated for education had steadily increased over the past eight years, jumping from KD 299.2 millions in 1980 to KD 419.6 millions in 1988, taking 13.6 per cent of the total state budget.

The study continued that this was accompanied by restricting vacant posts to Kuwaitis and setting up a complementary budget leading to a deflation of employment and providing better chances for appointing new Kuwaiti graduates.

This policy, the study said, was being strictly observed by all government ministries, and the newly set-up complementary budgets were used to provide jobs to Kuwaitis and meet essential functional requirements through jobs to non-kuwaitis with professional qualifications generally not found among Kuwaitis.

Appointments

The study said a total 83,861 employees were appointed over the past 12 years against the two budgetary allocations. Out of these 53,495 were Kuwaitis. The rest were teachers, engineers doctors and specialists in fields in which Kuwaitis were few, and they totalled 30,366.

However, a total of 2,741 posts were filled by Kuwaitis over the same period although originally allocated for non-Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Hungarian Trade Minister Visits 11-14 Nov

Prime Minister Receives Beck

JN1111194289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] At noon today, Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received Hungarian Trade Minister Tamas Beck, who is visiting our country. Beck conveyed to the prime minister a message from the Hungarian prime minister on bolstering bilateral relations. The message also stressed Hungary's support for Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, and the nonresident Hungarian ambassador in Sanaa attended the meeting.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Beck

JN1211192289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, today received Hungarian Trade Minister Tamas Beck and his delegation. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by the Hungarian ambassador in Sanaa and Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-'Attar Receives Hungarian Minister

JN1311134289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Authority, and Standing Committee member, today received Hungary's Trade Minister Tamas Beck currently visiting our country. They discussed economic and developmental ties between our country and Hungary.

Trade Minister Leaves; Agreement Signed

JN1411133089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Trade Minister Tamas Beck and his delegation left Sanaa today after a 5-day visit during which he held talks with officials at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade and with others. The talks centered on promoting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement to SABA, the Hungarian minister said that during his visit, an agreement for economic, technical, and trade cooperation was signed between our country and Hungary. A cooperation protocol was also signed by the Yemeni chambers of commerce and industry and the Hungarian chamber of commerce. He expressed his admiration for Yemeni cultural and historic sites and the accelerating development in the republic.

He was seen off by Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade; ministry officials; and the Hungarian charge d'affaires.

Sudan's 'Umar al-Bashir Visits 11-13 Nov

JN1011211989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Upon the invitation of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, will arrive in Sanaa tomorrow, Saturday, 11 November, heading a high-level delegation on a visit of several days to our country.

Arrives, Hold Talks With Salih

JN1111211589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, commander of the National Salvation Revolution in sisterly Sudan, have held a meeting at the Republican Palace. They discussed ways to develop bilateral relations, recent Arab and international developments, and issues of common concern.

Lt Gen al-Bashir briefed his brother the president on developments in southern Sudan and the efforts to establish peace and stability there, declaring the fraternal Sudanese people's appreciation of our people's support for them.

For his part, the brother president stressed that our country will continue to stand by the fraternal Sudanese people in their quest to consolidate their security and stability, pointing to the depth of brotherly and historical ties between the people in the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir arrived in Sanaa at 1130 today on an official visit to our country lasting several days. He was accorded an official reception led by brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage omitted]

During a brief rest at the VIP lounge at the airport, brother Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir made a statement to SABA' news agency, in which he expressed his happiness at visiting our country at the invitation of brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He said that his talks with the president will deal with the means of bolstering and promoting relations between the two brotherly countries to the level aspired to by the two fraternal Arab peoples in Yemen and Sudan.

Asked whether the talks will be confined to bilateral relations, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that they will touch on all concerns of the Arab homeland and world affairs on which coordination can be accomplished, especially since our stands as two brotherly countries should be identical toward all issues. [passage omitted]

Further on Arrival

EA1111195489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], arrived in Sanaa today, for an official visit to the YAR which will last a number of days. During his visit, Lt Gen 'Umar will hold talks with the Yemeni president, 'Abdallah Salih, on relations between the two countries in various fields and ways of strengthening them. They will also discuss current developments in the Arab world and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

Lt Gen 'Umar left Khartoum this morning for visits to the YAR and Democratic Yemen. His excellency is accompanied by Mr Mahjub al-Badawi Muhammad, the minister of education; Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im Khawjalis, minister of energy and mining; and Major General (rtd) 'Uthman Muhammad Hasan, the minister of state for defence. He was seen off at the airport by Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the NSRCC; General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, the chief of general staff; Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad, minister for presidential affairs; as well as the North Yemeni charge d'affaires in Sudan.

The NSRCC chairman told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY that he was happy to be visiting Yemen at the invitation of Colonel Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added: I feel that I am returning to my roots when I visit Yemen. He said that during the visit there would be a discussion about the development of relations between the two countries to the level desired by the two peoples. He said that the talks would also include issues affecting the Arab homeland, international questions, and problems on which the two countries needed to liaise in view of the fact that two fraternal countries should hold similar positions.

Briefs Salih on South

EA1211171589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] met the Yemeni president, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa yesterday [11 November]. At the meeting they discussed issues linked with the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and issues of common interest.

During the meeting Lt Gen al-Bashir briefed the Yemeni president on developments in the situation in southern Sudan, and the government's efforts aimed at establishing peace and stability in the south.

One should note that Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC, arrived in Sanaa yesterday on an official visit to the YAR which will last several days.

Departs Sanaa for Aden

JN1311211089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al- Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council for [NSRCC] in the Republic of Sudan, has left Sanaa for Aden after a 3-day visit to our country upon an invitation by Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. [passage omitted]

This morning, Lieutenant General al-Bashir held a news conference in Sanaa. Praising the political experience of the Yemen Arab Republic, he called it a rich and integrated experience. He characterized relations between Sudan and the Yemen as distinguished. He explored with President Salih avenues of cooperation in the economic, industrial, and agricultural areas as well as the potential for exchanging expertise, said al-Bashir. [passage indistinct]

On his country's foreign relations, al-Bashir said Sudan maintains distinguished and close ties with all Arab states. Sudanese delegations are visiting Arab and African countries to discuss recommendations of the Sudanese national dialogue conference and the NSRCC's plan to establish peace in the country and to foster economic and social development. [passage indistinct]

On Sudan's political problems, al-Bashir announced that a comprehensive political organization will be formed, representing all Sudanese political, ethnic, and religious currents with a view to drafting new policies. [passage indistinct]

On Arab blocs [tajammu'at], al-Bashir stated that he is extremely happy with these groupings, which, he said, constitute a practical step toward Arab unity. [passage indistinct]

Al-Bashir Urges 'Direct Dialogue' With SPLA

EA1511090689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Sanaa, 14th Nov—Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has affirmed that the southern Sudan problem cannot be solved war. [sentence as received] Gen al-Bashir told a press conference he [held] here yesterday that a direct dialogue between the government and the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is the ideal way towards a solution.

Al-Bashir said that the national dialogue conference held in Khartoum last October adopted good recommendations, including a formula for a federal rule. He also praised Yemeni-Sudanese relations and described Sudan's ties with the six states of the Gulf Co-operation Council as "excellent and advanced". Al-Bashir reiterated Sudan's keenness to establish good relations with neighbouring Ethiopia and resolve all differences between the two countries.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Netherlands

JN1711093289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] At the conclusion of the annual Yemeni-Netherlands talks held 14-16 November and concluded at the Central Planning Authority today, the minutes of the Yemeni-Netherlands talks were signed. The minutes provide for cooperation in a number of rural and agricultural joint development projects, as well as in the oil, gas, water, sewage, and health areas. The minutes were signed for Yemen by Brother Dr Mutahhar 'Abdallah al-Sa'idi, deputy planning minister, deputy head of the Central Planning Authority, and head of the Yemeni side to the talks. The minutes were signed for the Netherlands by (Arnold), head of the Netherlands side to the talks.

Following the signing ceremonies Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Authority, and Standing Committee member, expressed profound appreciation to the Netherlands Government for its good contributions in support of development projects in our country, and his wishes for further progress and prosperity in bilateral relations. The head of the Netherlands side to the talks expressed great satisfaction with the positive results of the annual meetings between our country and the Netherlands, praising the distinguished relations between the two.

Salih To Visit PDRY for UK Withdrawal Celebration

JN1811152089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has learned that brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, will pay a visit to the southern part of the homeland on 30 November on the occasion of the departure of British colonial forces from the southern part of the homeland, following a longstanding struggle during which our people sustained huge sacrifices and many martyrs.

Likewise, AL-THAWRAH learned that this visit will result in an important, historic proclamation on the road to the reunification of the Yemeni homeland, which was divided by hateful colonialism and the defunct Sultani and Imamate rule. This will constitute an advanced, unionist step on the way to a merged union to realize the consolidation of the two countries' identities into one international entity that will be called 'The Yemeni Republic,' beginning with the unification of defense and foreign policy in accordance with unionist agreements and the constitution of the state of unity.

Council Urges 'Serious, Practical Steps' Toward Unity

JN1911191589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The Consultative Council held a special session this morning, Sunday, 19 November 1989, under the chairmanship of brother Judge 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council president and Standing Committee member. The council listened to clarifications from brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member, on efforts and developments aimed at restoring Yemeni unity. The council issued the following statement:

Based on Article 5 of the permanent constitution, which states that Yemen is a unified whole and that the endeavor to achieve Yemeni unity is a sacred duty of every citizen; based also on the national charter, which clearly acknowledges that Yemeni unity is the destiny of our people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland, an imperative necessity for the homeland's full growth and progress, and a guarantee of its ability to protect its entity and perform an effective and positive Arab and international role; and in order to overcome all the conflicts that hinder the achievement of unity, the Consultative Council stresses that commitment to methods of dialogue, to the endeavor of achieving unity by peaceful means, and to the creation of a free, fair, and democratic climate to enable the people to decide freely the form of unity and its constitutional bases and to

choose their rulers in a completely free manner constitute the natural method of restoring Yemeni unity in its democratic sense reflecting the will and desire of the Yemeni masses, whose real interest lies in unity.

While aspiring to a full and comprehensive merger, the Consultative Council stresses the need for the leaders of the two parts to take serious and practical steps to achieve unity, the aim of the Yemeni homeland. Based on this, and in pursuance of the council's bylaws, which stipulate that the council should act by all possible means to restore Yemeni unity, which no foreign force can prevent, the Consultative Council stresses the following:

1. The leaders of the two parts must refer the draft constitution of the unionist state to the legislative authorities in both parts to complete the constitutional procedure and present it to a popular referendum.

2. The Consultative Council invites its twin Higher People's Council in the southern part of the homeland to an urgent meeting—the date and venue of which is to be agreed upon by the presidents of the two councils—so that the two councils can play their role and honor their historical responsibilities, as representatives of our unified Arab Muslim Yemeni people, to remove all obstacles and surmount all difficulties with a view to achieving our high national goal—the unity of our Yemeni country.

On the government side, the session was attended by brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member; Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of legal and Consultative Council affairs and Standing Committee member; and Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of education, head of the general committee of scientific institutes, and Standing Committee member. The session lasted for about 4 straight hours.

President Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Unity Issues

JN2011153289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning chaired an expanded meeting of the Consultative Council, the General Committee, and the Council of Ministers. The brother president welcomed all participants in the meeting, which acquires special importance in relation to the new developments in the national, regional, Arab, and international arenas, as well as the anticipated positive developments in national action and the earnest Yemeni efforts to achieve Yemeni unity as a historical inevitability, which is the most pressing popular demand at the present time for both parts of the Yemeni homeland.

During the meeting, the unionist steps taken by the two parts of the homeland throughout the stages of the unionist dialogue were reviewed and discussed for the purpose of leading the Yemeni homeland toward reunification and termination of the state of division, because this is one of the most important objectives of the Yemeni revolution and the greatest and most precious objective of the Yemeni people throughout the stages of their struggle.

The conferees discussed in detail all new developments pertaining to this national strategic issue on the popular level and the people's constitutional institutions in the two parts. These developments include the statement issued by the Consultative Council in yesterday's extraordinary session. The conferees commended the statement, considering it an expression of the people's unionist will at the present national stage, a consolidation of the results of the unionist dialogue between the officials in the two parts, and a continuation of the unionist efforts which were exerted and are still being exerted by the leaders of the two parts.

They affirmed the importance of translating the unionist action into a reality embodying the Yemeni will which is pressing more than ever for the reunification of the homeland in order to achieve all the objectives of the two revolutions of September and October by democratic and peaceful means. The meeting also stressed that the safety and success of the unionist steps and guaranteeing the positive unionist climate that prevails in the Yemeni homeland are our people's ideal path toward Yemeni unity—the destiny and fate of the Yemeni people—by which the homeland is master of the reins of its march, development, progress, and prosperity.

The meeting's participants emphasized the importance our people all over the homeland attach to the visit the brother president, commander in chief, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, will pay to the southern part of the homeland on the occasion of its national day, and to the resulting unionist steps that will bolster all that has been achieved for the homeland toward a full merger.

'Aziz Announces Talks Proposal at News Conference

JN2011052589 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1810 GMT 19 Nov 89

["Text of Tariq 'Aziz News Conference"—INA headline]

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced an Iraqi proposal for continuing the Iraq-Iran talks in the form of direct meetings between expert committees composed of specialists from both sides, as well as representatives of the UN General Secretariat, to discuss technical details of outstanding issues.

At a news conference he held yesterday morning in the Foreign Ministry, which was attended by Iraqi, Arab, and foreign reporters and correspondents, 'Aziz added that the proposal also stipulates these meetings alternately be in Baghdad and Tehran.

'Aziz said the proposed committees include committees for sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, withdrawal, and POW's within the framework of the Geneva Convention, as well as a committee for Article 4 of Resolution No 598 and another for Articles 6 and 8.

He said the committees would meet to pave the way for a direct meeting between the two foreign ministers under the auspices of the UN secretary general, without ruling out the possibility of convening a higher-level direct meeting at a fixed time and place in the presence of the UN secretary general.

The foreign minister said the Iraqi proposals set a 3-month time frame for these committees to end their deliberations after at least four meetings each. 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's readiness to immediately release all POW's under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and to immediately begin releasing all the unregistered sick and wounded POW's in accordance with the third Geneva Convention through the ICRC.

'Aziz said the POW's issue is not only an Iraqi issue, but an Iranian one as well because there are Iranian POW's in Iraq and Iraqi POW's in Iran, and when they are released, they all will be released regardless of the question of numbers. He said neither heavenly nor mundane laws allow humans to be subjected to bartering because men are equal, regardless of their numbers. 'Aziz described Iran's stand on the POW issue as one of blackmail because Iran is trying to transform a humanitarian issue into a political one. He said the Iranians insisted on tying the POW issue with withdrawal, which is a political issue of a different nature. He noted that this issue is dealt with in all disputes separately from the political issues because it is a humanitarian issue, and because there is a special agreement on the subject, which is the third Geneva Convention.

'Aziz said that Iraq asked Eliasson, during his recent visit to Baghdad, to ask the Iranians to provide clarifications and explanations on implementing Resolution No 598 and on how to reach a common understanding of all its provisions.

He said that a common and initial understanding of these paragraphs is important in implementing them confidently and with good will. He said that Iraq, for example, understands that Paragraph 4 of the said resolution must lead to a peace treaty and a spirit of good neighborliness between the two parties. He added: How do the Iranians understand this paragraph, and how do they perceive Paragraph 6 of the resolution?

'Aziz said that the Iranians have not answered these questions properly, but have given meaningless formal answers that do not convey a desire to reach an understanding. He added that the Iranian position on the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 has not changed. He added: This means that Iran is not ready to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 and that it does not view the resolution as a peace plan. Consequently, Iran is not ready to make a comprehensive and just peace between the two parties.

'Aziz also said the Iranians continue to procrastinate in implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and refuse to give a clear position on its provisions. In addition, they have continued to maneuver and make elusive statements, 'Aziz said.

On the possibility of holding new, direct talks between the two sides, Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iranians reject this procedure, the normal procedure in negotiations. He added: The Iranians are avoiding real and direct negotiations. They have always chosen to evade our strong arguments and evidence, which are based on historical data, international law, and logical argument.

In reply to a question on the Algiers agreement of 1975, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that this agreement is considered dead, and that Iran killed it through its behavior in word and deed. Besides, when it came to power, the current Iranian regime did not announce it would honor the agreements signed by the former Iranian Government, including the Algiers agreement. He continued: When the current Iranian rulers came to power in Iran, they described the Algiers agreement as buried.

Tariq 'Aziz then answered questions posed by newspaper and news agency correspondents on various regional and international issues. The following is the text of the conference proceedings:

The talks which began in Geneva on 25 August 1988 and continued in New York and Geneva until last April have not yielded any tangible results. In fact, they were not direct talks, as stipulated in the the agreement of 8 August 1988 between Iraq and Iran under the auspices of the UN secretary general. They were merely meetings, during which the Iranians avoided any direct and serious discussions on the important issues.

I have a comment to make in this connection. Resolution No 598 was meant to be a peace plan to solve the conflict between Iraq and Iran and usher in peaceful relations and good neighborliness between the two countries and throughout the region. The promotion of this objective requires that the two sides achieve understanding between them, as stated by the agreement of 8 August 1988. I will read the text of the agreement to you:

Pursuant to the official contacts that I have made with Iran and Iraq, I would like to inform you that the two governments have agreed that direct talks between the two countries' foreign ministers sponsored by me are to take place immediately after the cease-fire takes effect, with a view to arriving at a common understanding about the other provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and the measures and time frames for their implementation.

[Signed] Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general

Date: 8 November 1988.

This is the text of the agreement we worked out on 8 November 1988. Moreover, it will not be possible to implement the UN Security Council resolution without the parties concerned entering into a negotiating process and subsequently coming to an understanding, as usually happens with all Security Council resolutions. Iraq's insistence on direct talks is based on the existence of an agreement to this effect between the two sides—the 1988 agreement to which I have referred. It is an agreement that ought to be honored, as is natural practice and norm around the world.

In this regard, Iran is taking an irregular stand by refusing to comply with an agreement that originally was worked out to implement a cease-fire. Iran's behavior also is at odds with normal practice in international relations. We always have interpreted Iran's failure to enter into direct negotiations as an absence of a will to put Resolution No 598 into practice as a peace plan and proof of its intention to turn the armed conflict, which it was forced to abandon after losing out in the war, into a political dispute through argument and cheating on Resolution No 598.

We have communicated our position and explained it to the UN secretary general and his envoy, Mr Eliasson. Failure to enter into substantive, direct talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general means a lack of will to implement Resolution No 598 as a peace plan and also a lack of interest in a lasting, comprehensive peace.

The other point we explained to Mr Eliasson during his visit was that sovereignty is indivisible. Resolution No 598 provides for a pull-back from the internationally recognized borders, and we agreed to this. The rights of both parties in this respect thus must be taken into account. The Shatt al-'Arab is Iraqi territory, but Iraq has not exercized sovereignty over the waterway since the cease-fire. It has remained closed because Iran stakes groundless claims to the Shatt al-'Arab. If both sides' rights are to be assured, it will not be possible to meet the rights of one party at the expense of the other.

We are prepared to implement Paragraph 1 of the resolution on the basis that the rights to sovereignty for both sides, not only one of them, are guaranteed. When Iran recognizes Iraq's historical and legal rights to the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, there will be no problem regarding our forces' withdrawal from the small territorial spots on which they had been present when the cease-fire came into effect. Regarding this issue, we explained to the UN General Secretariat and to members of the Security Council our position, substantiated by documents and maps. Iraqi forces advanced to great depths inside Iranian territory during the battles of liberation between April and July 1988. Our forces were present on several thousands of square kilometers, but they were ordered to withdraw immediately after accomplishing the task of liberation; this is because Iraq has no ambitions in Iranian territories and because it is willing for peace and for good, neighborly relations.

On 8 August 1988, a cease-fire was agreed upon, and it was natural, according to this agreement, that the forces remained where they were. Our forces thus stand on the cease-fire line, and we do not have any ambitions in the small territories on which we are present; what we ask is that Iran recognizes our rights in the Shatt al-'Arab, and then there will be no problem.

The other subject is the prisoners of war. Paragraph 3 of the resolution stipulates—according to the Geneva Convention of 1949—that the POW's be freed and returned to their countries without delay after actual hostilities come to an end. According to this convention, the Intenational Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is the competent party to deal with this issue. Since October 1988, the ICRC has called for releasing the POW's and returning them to their countries on the grounds that actual hostilities have ceased since 20 August 1988. The Iranians, however, adopted a strange stand; they claimed that hostilities have not yet ceased.

We told them "let us allow the ICRC to judge on this issue", but they rejected this. After a while, the ICRC officially announced it believed actual hostilities ceased with the enforcement of the cease-fire, and this also is the interpretation of the international community. When their weak excuse was exposed, the Iranians insisted on linking the question of POW's to the issue of withdrawal, thus linking it to a political issue of a different nature. In all conflicts, the question of POW's is dealt with separately from political issues, first because it is a humanitarian question and second because there are international conventions that govern the question of POW's—conventions that must be respected regardless of the two parties' political disagreements. The Iranian position on the question of POW's is one of blackmail. We reject blackmail; first, the POW question is not an Iraqi question, but a joint Iraqi-Iranian one. There are Iraqi and Iranian POW's, and if we are to release them, we must release them all; numbers should not matter. In all

heavenly and earthly laws, there can be no bargaining over human beings; people have similar human value irrespective of their numbers.

The Iranians are lying in this matter, and as we have defied them in the past, we defy them now. The POW question is a humanitarian one that ought to be addressed without regard to political differences.

We are prepared to set all the prisoners free at once under the auspices of the Red Cross. We are prepared to start releasing all wounded and sick prisoners who are entered in Red Cross records. We are prepared immediately to start registering all unregistered prisoners. We are prepared to release all the prisoners under the third Geneva Convention through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

During Mr Eliasson's visit, we asked him to communicate some queries to the Iranians: We told him that if the rationale behind implementation of Resolution No 598 is the establishment of peace and good neighborliness, the two parties are bound to arrive at a common understanding of the meaning of certain paragraphs of the resolution, or, in other words, all the paragraphs of the resolution. A common understanding is necessary for the two sides, at least, to proceed with good will and trust. For example, our understanding of Paragraph 4 is that it should lead to a peace treaty. How do the Iranians perceive it? The Iranians have yet to answer this question. And what is the respective interpretation of Paragraph (s) ['ayn] by the two sides? And what is the connection between this paragraph and good neighborliness?

Whatever answers have been provided by the Iranians are meaningless. We asked questions about other paragraphs that required a common understanding by the two sides as embodied in the 8 August agreement and according to the custom between nations. The Iranians have refused to engage in serious dialogue and their answers show them to be uninterested in reaching an understanding. What conclusions have we drawn? We have concluded from the message relayed to us by Mr Eliasson that the Iranian position has not changed. We have come to the conclusion that Iran is not about to come to a common understanding on the articles of Resolution No 598. Iran is not about to comply with the Geneva Convention concerning POW's. Iran is bent on pursuing extortion and barter. This means Iran is not prepared to implement Resolution No 598 as a peace plan. In other words, Iran is not ready for a comprehensive peace.

Ambassador Eliasson left Tehran yesterday. He will certainly communicate the Iranian reply to us soon.

In reply to your second [as received] question, Iraq has taken a logical position. That is, we are ready to discuss everything. Negotiations are for discussing contentious issues. Our position on the sovereignty of Shatt al-'Arab is firm. However, when we sit at the negotiating table, we will listen to the views of the other side.

The Iranians are the ones who do not use this normal method during negotiations. Their ally, Yitzhaq Shamir, does the same thing when he refuses to discuss the issues the Palestinians want to discuss. As I said in my introduction, we have an agreement, the 1988 agreement. This agreement stipulates the need to reach a common understanding. The Iranians continue to evade the initiation of real negotiations because they do not want to face the cogent arguments and the evidence we have against them.

During the meetings in Geneva, some controversial issues were discussed. When explaining our position, we cited historical facts, international law, and used logical arguments while the Iranians evaded the issue. The Iranian delegation procrastinated. We are not afraid of discussing this issue. We can prove with historical facts, provisions of international law, and logic that Shatt al-'Arab is Iraqi.

Mahmud 'Atah from the Egyptian newspaper AL-HAQIQAH: I have four questions: First, how many Iraqi prisoners are not registered? Second, what is your position on the 1975 Algiers agreement? Third, what areas are being occupied by the forces of the two countries? And fourth, can you tell us the details of the fourth, third, and second paragraphs which you mentioned earlier?

Tariq 'Aziz: I mentioned in my reply that there are more than 100,000 prisoners from the two sides, and that tens of thousands of these prisoners are not registered.

With respect to your second question, the Algiers agreement is dead. This is what we said in our talks with Mr Eliasson.

Iran is the party that killed the agreement. When the present Iranian regime assumed power in February 1979, it did not proclaim to the world that it would abide by agreements, as the previous government had.

As you all know, since the establishment of the United Nations, those who change the system of government in this or that country always issue an official statement affirming they will continue to abide by the UN charter. If they are members of the Nonaligned Movement, they announce they will abide by the Nonaligned Movement's principles. If they are Islamic countries, they announce their adherence to the principles of the Islamic Conference Organization. If they are Arab countries, they announce they will abide by the Arab League Charter. In their official statement, they also announce that they will respect the agreements concluded by the previous government.

There is no record of such a statement by the present Iranian regime. On the contrary, if we return to what Iranian officials were saying in 1979 and 1980, including officials who still are in power, we will see they attacked and denounced the principles of international law and the United Nations and the agreements and truces signed by the old regime, including the 1975 agreement. They described this agreement as a buried and suspect

agreement. They described it as a dead agreement and then blatantly violated all the provisions of the 1975 agreement throughout 1979 and 1980. The lands the 1975 agreement stipulated must be returned to Iraq remained under Iranian occupation. We were forced to liberate them between 7 and 16 September 1980.

As the world knows, Iran has practiced the ugliest forms of interference in Iraq's internal affairs; it posed a great threat to Iraq's internal security. In fact, Iran did not recognize Iraq as a sovereign state, and neither did it recognize Iraq's right to choose its own political and social system.

On 4 September 1980, Iran launched the armed military offensive on Iraq. Therefore, Iran killed the 1975 agreement. Throughout the period that preceded its acceptance of Resolution No 598, there was no official Iranian statement that showed its respect or concern for the agreement, which they killed in 1979 and 1980.

After Resolution No 598 was issued in August 1987, there were documents at the United Nations—and we also have these documents of course—confirming that Iran does not recognize the 1975 agreement. The Iranian foreign minister said: Withdrawal—where to? Iran, therefore, only spoke about the dead agreement after its defeat in the war and after it was expelled from the lands it occupied inside Iraq.

If we refer to the [military] communiques issued by Iran, it used the word "liberation" when its forces entered an Iraqi area. And, when Iran occupied the al-Faw Triangle, it used the expression "the liberation of al-Faw." The Iranian deputy foreign minister visited Kuwait and requested a meeting with his highness the amir of Kuwait. He told the amir: We have become neighbors on land. Therefore, this is Iran's position on the 1975 agreement. We said to Eliasson: Is this the way agreements among countries are treated? The agreement was dead for 10 years, but after 10 years, Iran remembered there was an agreement with Iraq, because after its military defeat in the war, which it began, it felt it could make some gains. We told Eliasson the 1975 agreement died a long time ago. We and the Iranians still are alive, so let us work out a new agreement for the future.

The third question concerned the areas in which the two countries have forces. There is no map here, as I said in my introduction. During the liberation operations, the Iraqi forces entered deep into Iranian territory. This took place before the cease-fire. The cease-fire order was issued and an agreement was reached between the two parties and the [UN] secretary general to observe the cease-fire. Thus, the forces remained in their positions. This is not an occupation, but a presence dictated by the circumstances of implementing the cease-fire. The Iranians lie on this point and publish incorrect figures. The UN representatives know the facts because there are observation forces along the border between the two countries.

However, with regard to paragraphs 4, 6, 8, and others, you can have the text of the resolution at the end of the conference.

Question by [unidentified] journalist: Mr minister, you say the threat to peace in the region still exists. Do we understand from this that the Iraqi side has stopped the reduction, or disbandment of its forces?

The foreign minister: My reply to this specific question is no. However, this does not mean we are not worried about the current state of affairs, and that we are not taking the necessary precautionary measures. As I said in my reply to a previous question, the Iranians did not demonstrate any readiness to establish a comprehensive peace. The present situation is a state of no-war, no-peace. We are dutybound to make all the necessary arrangements to protect our sovereignty and security in circumstances such as these. However, we believe we can do so while continuing with our plan to reduce the number of our Armed Forces.

Question by the Saudi AL-JAZIRAH newspaper correspondent: First, what is the stand of the UN secretariat, or the UN secretary general toward the Iranian stand, which obstructs the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for the establishment of peace between the two countries? Second, Iraq is ready to upgrade the current dialogue between Iraq and Iran to a higher level. Does this mean a new initiative from the Iraqi Government to Iran?

The minister: I do not want to speak on behalf of the UN secretary general, or the UN Security Council members. However, I believe when the UN Security Council passed Resolution No 598, it sought to establish comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region. Therefore, one supposes they should abide by stands that would lead to the attainment of this objective. In reply to your second question, I said earlier that Iraq adopts a logical stand that is in line with the spirit and practices of this age.

Question from REUTER: In light of the way you described the Iranian stand, your proposals to form a joint committee, and in light of the Iranians' rejection in the past of similar proposals, do we understand that the option of resuming war still is a very likely possibility? Is Iraq ready to wage a second war if the Shatt al-'Arab issue is not settled?

The foreign minister: I believe our stand on this is very clear to all observers in this region and in the world. We have voiced our concern over the current state of no-war, no-peace. Others have voiced a similar concern. The other Arab countries also wish to establish a lasting peace in this region. At the same time, we do not jump to the conclusions you have reached in your question. Relatively speaking, the possibility of a resumption of hostilities is not high on our agenda, considering the list of other possibilities we have. This is not due to the real intentions or desires Iran harbors, but to the current

balance of power—a balance that will last a long time. Iraq did not start the war in 1980.

Iran is the one that began the war and dispute; it is the party that embarked on the aggression. Therefore, 8 years after the war, Iraq would not resort to force to resolve an issue that can, in fact must be, resolved through peaceful means. And this is Iraq's stand.

Question by an Egyptian journalist: Your excellency the minister, have you decided, during the last round, to hold a meeting on the level of foreign ministers of the two countries at the negotiations which began in Geneva, or will the negotiations be confined to separate talks similar to what took place this month?

The foreign minister: The UN secretary general's report decides this. So far, I have no official information on the nature of the invitation which he will address to us, according to what has been reported. However, out of our firm policy, we will accept the secretary general's invitation when addressed to us.

Question by a reporter from Cairo AL-AHALI: Your excellency the minister, do you have information or estimations with regard to the Egyptian prisoners in Iran? Will this problem be resolved within the framework of the exchange of prisoners of war between the Iraqi and Iranian sides, or is it an Egyptian-Iranian issue?

The foreign minister: The Iranian side has not given any definite number of the Egyptian brothers. The Iranian side also has not given a definite number of Iraqi prisoners, as I said, because it did not register all prisoners. According to my information, the Red Cross possesses accurate figures because the Iranian side was not honest in declaring the number of prisoners in Iran. We are responsible for our brother prisoners; it also is the responsibility of the Red Cross. The Egyptian prisoners, as well as the other prisoners, must be released.

Question by the BBC: Your excellency the minister, this question is from the BBC: Do you not believe it is time other countries practiced effective pressure to overcome the impasse facing Resolution No 598?

The foreign minister: We hope all countries that have or do not have influence will work toward reinforcing the spirit of peace, because peace is a lofty objective, and at the same time, it is an objective that is linked strongly with the interests of other countries and peoples. We are not the only country that suffered from the war; other regional states also suffered and many legitimate interests were harmed. Therefore, we expect the major countries, the regional states, and countries that have an opinion on or interest in the region's affairs to make efforts to convince the Iranians to abandon their present stand and enter into serious negotiations with Iraq to implement Resolution No 598 within a peace plan to achieve permanent peace.

Question by [an unidentified] correspondent: What is your stand on the Iranian provocations that occur every now and then, the latest of which was in the Shatt al-'Arab, in which a number of victims fell? What is your stand on the Kurdish terrorists in northern Iraq and Iran's support for them to carry out their sabotage acts?

The foreign minister: My answer to the second question, before moving to the first question, is all indications are that the Iranian regime has not changed its stand on all essential and major issues, whether with regarding its relationship with Iraq or its relations with regional states and even the world.

The difference between now and the past is that the Iranian regime is weaker than it was because of its defeat in the war, which it started and insisted on prolonging for 8 years. In reply to the first question, Iran committed many cease-fire violations. These violations are documented by the observers group and at the UN General Secretariat. As for us, we respect our commitments, but at the same time, we will not permit the Iranians to violate the cease-fire. We will tackle each case on its merits. We have sent them a letter along these lines through Ambassador Eliasson.

Question by Mazin 'Abd al-'Aziz, Kuwaiti AL-SIYASAH correspondent: After 1 year of cease-fire, the situation remains as it was with respect to Shatt al-'Arab. Have you prepared a plan to divert the Shatt al-'Arab waterway? The second question: Do you have anything to say on the Al-Ta'if agreement, and what is the nature of your current relationship with General 'Awn?

Tariq 'Aziz: I will reply to the first question, because we have been discussing this issue. We have not abandoned any plans we were considering, and we have many substitute and reserve plans in this area.

Question: What is involved in the question of Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab?

Tariq 'Aziz: Any jurist who is well-informed about the rules of international law can reply clearly to this question. Iraq's sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab, for example, was established in past agreements. We are concerned about what was formulated in these agrements and the practices that this formulation has brought about.

Question: If Iran agrees [as received] to the formation of the joint committees, and if it persists with its position on Resolution No 598 and continues to refuse to enter into serious negotiations for a comprehensive and lasting peace, how long will Iraq continue to depend on UN efforts, or on initiatives made by countries in the region? Will it be possible for Iraq to take the initiative in some areas, such as releasing some prisoners or withdrawing from some Iranian positions?

The foreign minister: You know the general practice in the world is that politicians do not reply to hypothetical questions. We have a position, and our position on the current situation is as we have stated it, and as our

forefathers stated it: Each case has its own characteristics. But I would like to say here that Iraq insists on its position and abides by it, because Iraq has right on its side and its position is in harmony with international law, logic, and the laws of heaven and earth. We will not make any concessions on a position that has justice on its side. If the Iranians procrastinate in facing what is right and in doing it, they will be the losers.

They tarried much before they agreed to peace. Have they achieved anything from this? No. They will lose by obstructing the peace process, as they lost by prolonging the war.

Question from AL-TADAMUN magazine: In his mediation efforts between Baghdad and Tehran, was Eliasson content onlt to submit the viewpoints of each party, or did he come to convey new proposals to end the deadlock in the negotiations?

Tariq 'Aziz: Eliasson's mission was a fact-finding one in the first place. He offered ideas, listened to the two countries, and communicated the two parties' stands to each other. This is what took place during his visits.

Journalist: Mr Minister, can we say the Shatt al-'Arab area is an occupied Iraqi area, and that Iraq links this issue to the occupied Iranian territories and is ready for exchanging them?

The minister: Yes, this is what I meant at the beginning of my statements. I said Iraq has not exercised its sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab since the cease-fire was observed. This means the Shatt al'Arab is under occupation. Reports mentioned that during his visit to Algeria, Velayati offered concessions on behalf of Iran. This took place while Eliasson was in Iraq. Do you expect a new mediation or talks to take place with Algeria in this respect? There is a mediator in the person of the UN secretary general.

Question from the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' newspaper: Was the issue of the Iranian opposition, specifically the Mojahedin-e Khalq, raised during the rounds of talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general? If this issue was raised, what stand does Iraq adopt on this issue?

The foreign minister: We did not discuss this issue because we did not hold a real dialogue on the future of relations between the two countries and on the obligations the question of interference in domestic affairs entails on the two countries.

We did not discuss it. I now am ready to answer other questions, but I would like to say we only have 20 more minutes.

Question by a Turkish journalist: Would you tell us about the current situation between Iraq and Turkey? In this context, can you say you are satisfied with Turkish Middle East policy?

The foreign minister: Our relations with Turkey are cordial and neighborly, and the cooperation between us covers various fields for the benefit of the two peoples. We exchange opinions with our Turkish friends and neighbors. They have the right to decide their own policy. In general, the understanding between our countries is completely satisfactory.

A correspondent from Cairo AL-AKHBAR: With regard to the problem of the Egyptian workers in Iraq: Mr Tariq 'Aziz—a long-time expert in foreign affairs—we have heard about Iraqi measures to settle some of the problems. Regrettably, there are rumors about some events that have taken place and resulted in casualties. We would like to hear a clarification on this.

The foreign minister: I was prepared to discuss this issue at this morning's news conference. However, this morning, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan left for Cairo, and he will discuss this issue in his talks with his brothers in Cairo.

Question by [an unidentified] reporter: To what extent does Iraq support the al-Ta'if agreement? There are many rumors in Beirut. How do you explain the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Beirut attending the diplomatic reception held by the new Lebanese president?

The foreign minister: With regard to the second question, there is a famous saying in diplomatic circles that if a diplomat says no, it means he is not a diplomat, despite his diplomatic post. Yes, the situation in Lebanon still is complicated. We always have hoped for a situation in Lebanon in which Lebanon can restore its sovereignty. We believed and we still believe the main reason for Lebanon's suffering throughout the past several years is the foreign occupation, particularly the Syrian occupation of large areas of Lebanon.

When we look at the political map of Lebanon and find that non-Lebanese forces still are there, we feel pain because there will be no solution when we find an occupation [words indistinct] we say, yes, there is a crisis.

A journalist from the Jordanian AL-DUSTUR: Would you tell us the most prominent topics to be discussed at the quadripartite summit in Amman [in Februray]?

The foreign minister: I will answer that question in January.

A journalist from the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR: Your excellency the minister: What about the recent events in Baghdad and their effect on relations between Iraq and Egypt?

The foreign minister: If you were in Baghdad during the past few days, you would have listened to the president. What the leader president said represents Iraq's position. What can I add to this? Relations between Egypt and Iraq are stronger and stand above events of a passing nature that can be dealt with by officials in the two countries on the basis of fraternal relations.

Question by JEUNE AFRIQUE correspondent: You mentioned that the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Beirut accepting an invitation to attend a reception held in Mu'awwad's honor merely was a diplomatic gesture. Does this mean Iraq does not consider Mu'awwad the legitimate president of Lebanon?

The foreign minister: The main problem in Lebanon now is not whether to object or not. As I said in an earlier reply, the main problem Lebanon now faces is the following: Is Lebanon proceeding on the road to salvation, or is it still in a dilemma? Every Lebanese, whether he is in the top echelons of power or in any other position, sincerely seeks to place his country on the road to salvation and particularly seeks to secure Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese territory. Any official working toward this objective will receive all the support, assistance, and respect.

Question from the London INDEPENDENT: Some 8 weeks ago, a citizen holding a British passport was arrested here in Baghdad. However, the reports published in the papers say no charges were brought against the woman, and she did not meet with any representative. Can you tell us what was exchanged with the British in this respect?

The foreign minister: We informed British officials this woman is involved in an espionage case, and that she is being investigated. All consular services will be made available to her following the conclusion of the investigation. This is what took place with respect to her partner in this case after the investigation with him was completed.

Question from a Venezuelan paper: [Words indistinct] Iraq, Venezuela, and the founding members of OPEC since 1983 that all OPEC member countries, particularly Iraq and Venezuela [word indistinct] in oil prices. This will affect us economically. What is Iraq doing after 8 years of war, and in light of the modest oil revenues it gets, to tackle economic problems and rebuild what was destroyed by the war, a war which changed the results from political to economic?

The minister: I thank you for using the term constructive change. We can view your question in the field of economy as the best one to conclude our statements.

Iraq's policy on oil and OPEC is constant. We are for constancy in the pricing policy and the policy on distribution of quotas. The fluctuations in the oil market neither serve the producers nor those who purchase oil. This is the basis of our policy, and we believe effective solidarity now will serve all parties.

Iraq is one of the major oil producers. Its proven reserves amount to [word indistinct], and there is every likelihood it will be of a high grade. From this premise, Iraq is eager to have a stable market. Future prospects show there will be a steady and gradual increase in demand and a sound increase in prices. This means the Iraqi economy has a bright future. We are experiencing some difficulties at present, but we are confident we can overcome them. We also are fully confident the future of the Iraqi economy is a bright one, not only against the backdrop of our oil revenues, but also against the backdrop of the development of our national economy in terms of quality and quantity.

I thank you.

Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

JN2011171789 Baghdad INA in English
1620 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 20, INA—President Saddam Husayn said that it is a big mistake to set a general law during certain circumstances unless we give this law the temporary characteristic that defines its validity for a certain period.

Meanwhile, President Husayn added, it is a big mistake not to see the defined circumstance even in the cases when we are required to have a comprehensive conception about matters, because there is a vital and standing relationship between the possibility of achieving what is thought of within the comprehensive framework, and in long term, and between the developments of the current conditions and the existing reality including the developments of the possibilities of the current conditions negatively or positively.

President Husayn stressed that while we benefit from the human experience of societies and nations and interact with them, we should not forget the peculiarity and theory of our system. He said that this peculiarity was chosen from the essence, culture and sufferings of the nation.

That came during a meeting chaired over this morning by President Saddam Husayn for the ministers council and which lasted for more than five hours.

During the meeting, topics listed on the agenda were discussed and the appropriate decisions and measures were taken about them.

Ramadan Makes Statement on Return From Egypt

JN2011202789 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1945 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he had conveyed a message from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also said the message stressed the Iraqi leadership's interest in continuing to strengthen the brotherly relations existing between the two countries and promoting them in all fields.

The first deputy prime minister added he had briefed Egyptian officials on the quick and exceptional measures leader President Saddam Husayn instructed be taken to pay the dues of Egyptian workers in Iraq, as well as the companies' dues.

He said relations between the two fraternal countries are ideal on both the popular and official levels. He asserted the presidents of the two countries are determined to strengthen and broaden these relations in a manner that will benefit the march of the Arab Cooperation Council, of which Iraq and Egypt constitute two of the main pillars.

The first deputy prime minister asserted any progress in Arab solidarity and any improvement in relations among Arab countries will prompt anti-Arab quarters, and the internal parties connected with these quarters, to work hard and in numerous and exposed ways to achieve their strategic objectives.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said his talks with President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials had been more than excellent and were held in a very frank atmosphere. He asserted President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian officials affirmed their pride in President Saddam Husayn's leadership, his love for Egypt and its people, and his genuine interest in providing all facilities to his Egyptian brothers. He added they also affirmed their determination to face the challenges and improve the brotherly relations between the two fraternal states.

The first deputy prime minister added that the positive and distinguished results of the Higher Committee meetings give additional proof of the depth and strength of relations between the two countries. He said these results reflected the common and serious desire to broaden and deepen these relations in all fields to build new bases for future distinguished relations that will benefit the Arab nation, its strength, and solidarity.

The delegation accompanying the first deputy prime minister consisted of Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization.

Editorial: Iran Insists on 'No-War, No-Peace'

JN2011124689 Baghdad INA in English
1210 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 20, INA—Al-Qadisiyah daily of Baghdad said that the release of prisoners of war (POW's) should precede any other action.

In its editorial of today, the paper reaffirmed that this issue was a test to the intentions. The paper added that the Iranian rulers' purposes versus the issue of POW's were obvious, and those rulers aimed at using this issue as a compromise card for extorting Iraq and threatening the international peace and security.

The paper clarified that Iranian rulers' insistence on ignoring this humanitarian issue and their open bids to link it to other matters towards the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No 598 certainly expressed their intentions and schemes to keep the state of "no-war no-peace" going on.

The paper recalled Iraq's successive initiatives to end agony of myriads of POW's, saying that Iraq had always supported efforts aimed at solving this issue.

Iraq's endeavour to the process of exchanging POW's, emanates from its firm policy consolidating props of comprehensive and just peace, and from its faith in the humanitarian principles.

The paper confirmed that the best way to engineer peace, started from allout swap of POW's pursuant to the Resolution No 598 which Iraq accepted immediately after its issuance while Iran accepted it following a series of debacles.

Deputy Premier Hammadi Returns From Kuwait

JN2011181289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister, and leader President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the amir of Kuwait, today returned to Baghdad.

During his visit to Kuwait, the leader president's envoy conveyed a message from his excellency to his highness the Kuwaiti amir dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries

'Aziz Delivering Message to Jordanian King

JN2111091289 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0845 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left today for Amman.

Tariq 'Aziz will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn. The message deals with the firm relations between the two fraternal countries, developments in the Arab arena, and the situation between Iraq and Iran. He also will hold talks with Jordanian officials on issues of common interest.

Shamir Discusses Baker Plan, Coalition Crisis

TA2011073889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Goni Mardor "prior to his departure from Los Angeles to New York, a few hours ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Mardor] First, we would like to hear some sort of interim report about your visit to the United States.

[Shamir] As is known, I dealt with numerous issues on this trip. The immediate reason for my visit was the invitation extended to me by the Organization of Jewish Confederations in North America, to attend their convention in Cincinnati. I attended the convention, which I think was very successful and effective. I hope its results will be felt in Israel, with regard to the vast efforts needed to absorb the large waves of immigration we are expecting.

I also visited the White House and held talks at the U.S. State Department. In my meeting with the president at the White House and in my talks with State Department officials, we clarified and discussed at length the various possibilities currently at our disposal concerning the implementation of the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Mardor] Concerning the latter, we hear today that the PLO has already conveyed to Egypt its response to Baker's five points, but its specifics remain unknown. I would like to ask you the following: What will Israel's reaction be if the PLO either accepts or rejects the Baker initiative?

[Shamir] I cannot go into any sort of speculation. The moment we receive some response from Egypt, we will deal with it according to its content and we will clarify the matter with the U.S. Administration, as we have agreed. I suggest that we all be patient and see how matters develop. Our aim is to proceed to the initial phases of implementing the peace initiative.

[Mardor] Will Israel agree to have the United States accept the PLO's assumptions, just as it expects it to accept ours?

[Shamir] We do not conduct any negotiations whatsoever with the PLO. We do not know what the PLO is demanding from the United States. We know what the PLO's goals are, and we know what it strives for. We conduct talks and discussions with the United States, and as soon as the latter decides that there is something to talk about, it will approach us and we will hear it out.

[Mardor] Does this not entail some sort of indirect—if not direct—negotiations with the PLO via Egypt and the United States?

[Shamir] I hear similar questions two or three times a day. There are no negotiations whatsoever with the PLO, and there never will be. First of all, we will not come to any meeting that is attended by PLO men. The United States, through the President and the secretary of state, has unequivocally declared that it will not pressure or try to persuade Israel to negotiate with the PLO. Hence, there is no question here of negotiations with the PLO, but of talks with Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Mardor] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the six assurances do not constitute a condition for the acceptance of Baker's plan. Do you subscribe to the same opinion?

[Shamir] This is not a question of semantics. The government passed a resolution accepting the five points proposed by the secretary of state on the assumption—on a certain assumption—that six provisions requested by Israel are met. Obviously, all of these, including Israel's assumptions, constitute a whole. In my talks at the State Department, nobody asked me whether these were conditions or not. What we are talking about is one integral resolution by the Israeli Government. This is what we discussed, and this is what we will have to discuss and receive a response to. We will decide on our future moves in the wake of that response.

[Mardor] But you did not receive those six assurances in writing during your stay in the United States.

[Shamir] Not yet. The Americans said they were awaiting Egypt's reply, but when the time comes for them to give us an answer I assume that they intend to give it in writing.

[Mardor] Mr Shamir, you conferred with many Jewish leaders during your visit. Did you get the impression that there may have been an erosion in U.S. public opinion in general and among U.S. Jews in particular with regard to their attitude toward Israel? Has there been a change?

[Shamir] This is an absolute lie, a complete fabrication which is spread in the Israeli media by enemies of Israel whose identity I do not know. The vast majority of U.S. Jews—I would say the entire U.S. Jewish community, other than a few exceptions—stands by the Israeli Government. We have a national unity government, and it is only natural that just as there are differences within the government, there should also be differences within the large mass of its supporters. The great majority of U.S. Jews supports the views I express during my occasional visits here.

[Mardor] You say we have a unity government. It seems a crisis may be awaiting you upon your return home. You probably know about it.

[Shamir] The threat of crisis always hovers over such governments. I hope that upon my return we will clarify all that needs clarification, and we will overcome the threat of a crisis.

[Mardor] What is your position regarding the legislation of the law on human rights?

[Shamir] I do not want to voice my opinion from far away. I have heard various assessments. When I come home I will speak to my colleagues and to representatives of the various parties, and we will reach an understanding.

[Mardor] Are you not anxious about the fate of the unity government?

[Shamir] There is always room for anxiety.

[Mardor] I mean, at this point in time.

[Shamir] Unity is like a plant that needs constant care. As is known, I am a big advocate of national unity; I take good care of it, and I will continue to take care of it. Will I succeed? I hope so; we will see.

[Mardor] Mr Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, bon voyage and thank you very much.

Shamir Concludes U.S. Visit, Leaves for Europe

TA2011173389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has described his conversation with U.S. President George Bush as one aimed at leaving the desk clean. Mr Shamir wound up his U.S. visit today. Before leaving for France and Italy he said that the United States and Israel had agreed to defer differences of opinion until the stage when a permanent settlement is debated. The prime minister enumerated the contentious issues that will be discussed at a later stage:

[Begin Shamir recording] For instance, settlements and other similar issues whose significance is not here and now, but which nevertheless require discussion, these issues were raised openly and were reacted to equally candidly. I think the situation now, in this respect, is better. [end recording]

Results of Shamir's Visit to U.S. Reviewed

TA1711123789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 89 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "A Journey Without Results"]

[Text] Everyone watching from the sidelines, including the Israeli citizens who care about their country's relationship with the United States, had doubts from the very beginning on whether any benefit would come from Prime Minister Shamir's meeting with U.S. President Bush.

The doubt was based on two things: a fundamental distance between the two countries' positions regarding the main issue on the agenda—the peace initiative; and the personal differences between the President and the prime minister. The Washington summit confirmed the validity of the doubt on both counts. As far as Bush is concerned, Shamir is burned out. The cold wind blowing from the conference room was easily felt across the physical distance separating Tel Aviv and Washington, and even the existence of what is known as interpersonal chemistry could not have transformed black into white or white into black.

One of those in the know sums things up similarly. According to Yitzhaq Shamir, "if there was any tension, there was an inclination today to end it." In other words, the tension is not yet a thing of the past, and the term inclination is very vague in this context. But the most focused and convincing proof as to where things stand on the President-prime minister level was furnished by the statements of one of the U.S. officials: "We did not attempt today to resolve the issue of the guarantees Israel requested." In other words we had better refrain from tackling the concrete issues that demand a solution so that the whole thing does not blow up in our face. And to add insult to injury we hear that this effort (the meetings with the President and the secretary of state) actually came about to guarantee "a very clear understanding of the basic positions"—and we are talking about two countries which maintain inimitably close relations.

This milestone deserves two comments: Does the United States still need to understand the fundamental positions? Whatever happened to the continuous contacts, on all levels, between the two countries? Did all the work conducted by the various teams in both governments—together with their factual lectures and attendant explanations—go down the drain? Why else would the prime minister be dragged all the way to Washington to discuss South Africa and the intifadah's ugly visage with President Bush? The answer is because, after all, they did not discuss the burning issues. And here is the second comment, which derives from the first: Because as long as there is no dialogue at any level between keen, astute people from both governments, then people of good will, who do not want a vocal explosion, must try to feed the public (through the media) political pabulum in the form of statements such as the need for a mutual understanding of each country's fundamental positions.

There is much to say about the inflation of Israel's contacts with South Africa—to have a stick to beat us with —contacts which apparently do not disturb relations with Mrs Thatcher or with that international saint, French President Mitterrand. But raising this matter, as well as the claim that Israel has adopted harsher measures to quell the intifadah—issues that have already become "yesterday's news" in the contacts between the U.S. and Israel at the work team level—smacks of an attempt to make Shamir admit his failings, but on the wrong grounds.

These wrongdoings do not head the list of sins for which Shamir must seek atonement. This is because the cardinal sin—and it affects the United States less than the country and the people Shamir is currently representing—is the desperate clutching at the status quo, and the stubborn refusal to part with the Arabs in the territories.

The United States, however, is apparently sick of discussing this heated issue with the prime minister, because it is tired of getting the same standard response every time.

Relations between Israel and the United States, once renowned for their closeness, have reached this low point. Until recently, talks between the two countries were upgraded from the level of work teams to the level of foreign ministers, and from there to the level of prime minister and President according to the importance of issues discussed and the need to formulate a coordinated Israeli-U.S. response. Now it is just the opposite: Bush and Shamir discuss the intifadah and South Africa; the detailed, agonizing job of furthering the peace process is reduced to the secretary of state level; and if the operative route suggested by the U.S. has been correctly understood, then it appears they would prefer that the practical decisions on the Middle East be made while circumventing Shamir.

Happy days are indeed here if the U.S. prefers Moshe Arens to Shamir, taking him for a person with whom one can close a deal, which, incidentally, serves as ample evidence of the Americans' indefatigable optimism.

A miracle may yet happen and the PLO may reject Baker's five-point plan. But the chances this will happen are slim: 'Arafat is too clever to fall into this trap. Without such a miracle, Shamir will return home in the same state he left: empty-handed. His public relations staff will do its best to inflate the importance of the "Jewish" events and count the number of claps he receives. But he and they will know the truth: The journey to Washington did not achieve even one important goal. The constraints ministers are waiting for him here, and they will point to the guarantees he did not get, while from the other side he will have to face the Labor Party, which promised its voters it would withdraw from the coalition if no progress is achieved toward furthering the peace process.

This is not a happy state of affairs in anyone's opinion, but if I would be permitted to express my subjective opinion, then the man who would be willing to gamble on our friendship with the United States just to perpetuate his control over 1.5 million Arabs deserves his predicament.

Arens Says PLO Response 'No Interest to Us'

TA2011190489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Arens says Israel has no interest whatsoever in the PLO's reply to Baker's five points. Arens was speaking to the Young Judaea Youth Movement in Jerusalem today. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Foreign Minister Arens said Israel is now awaiting Egypt's reply to Baker's proposals. He declared that Israel would not negotiate with the PLO in any way, shape, or form. Therefore, the PLO's response was irrelevant. And he added, the PLO has but one goal:

[Arens] ...to subvert the election process, to arrange it so that an Israeli delegation would suddenly find itself not with authentic representatives of the Palestinian Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but facing a delegation that had been appointed and anointed by the PLO that would come not to discuss elections, but to discuss a Palestinian state, and in effect the destruction of the State of Israel.

[Essing] And as for the Egyptian response:

[Arens] The last we heard was that the Egyptians don't intend to give a response themselves, but are rather waiting for a response from the PLO. Well, we are waiting for an Egyptian response. A PLO response is of no interest to us. It is not relevant to the process at all, will certainly not move the process forward. [end recording]

Arens Opposed To Taking 'Orders' From the U.S.

TA2111093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens indicated yesterday that Israel would withstand U.S. pressure, and even sanctions, should it believe its basic interests were in jeopardy.

Arens was speaking to visiting university students during a question and answer session on Mount Scopus.

There had been disagreements with the U.S. in the past, Arens told his questioners.

Qualifying his comments by saying that there was no crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations, Arens nevertheless spoke plainly about such an eventuality.

"The Israeli government cannot simply take orders from Washington. This is not the way to carry out our responsibility to the State of Israel," he said.

"I hope we will never get to the point where the differences of opinion are so severe that somebody in Washington may begin to think up punitive actions or sanctions against Israel, like cutting back on American support for Israel. We have never had this kind of occurrence in the past. We hope that we never will.

"In the final analysis, the decisions taken by the Israeli government will always be those we consider to be in the best interest of the State of Israel," Arens said.

Arens said there would only be peace with the Arab states when they undergo the same sort of democratic change as is currently transforming Eastern Europe.

When asked by reporters afterwards if he was concerned that U.S. officials had characterized Shamir's talks last week with President George Bush as "frank" rather than "good," Arens said he was not concerned. He preferred "frank to not frank," he remarked.

Ambassador Shamir Meets Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid

TA2011191089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Israel's ambassador in Cairo, Prof Shim'on Shamir, yesterday met Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, but he did not receive the PLO's response to the Baker plan, and official circles in Jerusalem say the ambassador did not ask for it. More from our diplomatic reporter Jack Katzenell:

About 10 days ago Foreign Minister Moshe Arens sent a message to his Egyptian counterpart, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, informing him of Israel's agreement to the Baker plan in accordance with the Israeli peace initiative, and asking him for Egypt's support. The text of the note was very similar to the one sent by Arens to other foreign ministers around the world. Last night, Ambassador Shim'on Shamir met 'Abd-al-Majid and asked him about Egypt's response to Arens' message, but no response was given yet. Sources in Jerusalem stressed that Ambassador Shamir did not receive from 'Abd-al-Majid the PLO's response to the Baker plan nor any news about it. The Egyptians understand very well, officials in Jerusalem say, that Israel does not negotiate with the PLO directly or indirectly, and is not interested in what the PLO thinks or says.

In fact, sources in Jerusalem have expressed doubt about whether the PLO document reported to have been delivered to Egypt really exists. However, Israel's repeated declaration that it is not interested in what the PLO says should not be taken too literally. It is true that on the official level Israeli representatives do not accept reports on the PLO's decisions or statements, even from friendly countries like Egypt or the United States. However, U.S. diplomats have told me that in informal conversations they have found Israeli officials very interested in hearing what the PLO is doing and saying, and it is a safe assumption that Jerusalem has its own ways of monitoring the PLO, and is doing so right now very closely.

Nusaybah Sees 'Probability' of Cairo Dialogue

TA2011121089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Leading Palestinian activist Dr Sari Nusaybah, a lecturer at Bi'r Zayt University, said that in light of reports of clarifications demanded by the PLO, there is still a wide gap between the Palestinian and the Israeli positions. Reporter Mark Weiss asked Nusaybah if he thinks the gap can be bridged.

[Begin recording] [Nusaybah] I believe that as long as Israel is willing to respond to the new PLO position, the dialogue can start.

[Weiss] Are you confident the Cairo talks will indeed take place?

[Nusaybah] Well, I believe that there is enough willingness, at least on the Palestinian side. It seems to me there is enough willingness also on the part of other parties to try and start negotiations in order to arrive at some kind of settlement. Now this means that of course the forces that are driving toward peace are far greater than the forces that are trying to put up obstacles. Insofar as the PLO, it seems to be doing its best to arrive at peace. I have confidence that there is a probability—which is more than a possibility—that a dialogue in Cairo will indeed take place.

[Weiss] And looking further ahead, do you expect elections in the territories some time next year?

[Nusaybah] It is not possible to determine at this stage what will happen after the dialogue begins, but I believe that the actual occurrence of the dialogue itself is a step forward, if it brings the two sides—the Palestinians and the Israelis—for the first time face to face together in serious political negotiations. Now what happens next, in my opinion, is going to be for the better. I am not sure which direction though this will take. [end recording]

Nusaybah Wants Interim Palestinian Government

TA2011202389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Sari Nusaybah says that in recent months the residents of the territories have lost the initiative and have created what he called a strategic vacuum. He believes that those responsible for the uprising in the territories have not managed to formulate a new strategic plan, which has led to disorder, infighting, and violence.

Sari Nusaybah calls for setting up an interim Palestinian government in order to restore the momentum. He believes that if efforts are invested in building the institutions of the incipient state, violence in the territories would decline.

Abie Nathan Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat

TA2011133389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Abie Nathan received in his prison cell today a congratulatory message from Yasir 'Arafat. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the cable was delivered to Nathan by Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, who had received it from Ibrahim al-Sus, the PLO's representative in Paris.

The Prison Service pointed out that immediately upon receipt of the cable, Nathan informed prison authorities about it. It was noted that the transfer of such material to

an inmate constitutes a crime and if Darawshah were not an MK, the prison authorities would have taken the necessary measures.

GDR Minister Says Germanies To Remain Separate

TA1911102189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 89 p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer by correspondent in Europe Daniyel Dagan]

[Excerpts] East Berlin—"Israelis should not worry. German reunification will never occur." This was the response of GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer to the concern expressed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about reunification of the two Germanies. Fischer's remarks were made in an exclusive interview with HA'ARETZ shortly after his swearing-in in Hans Modrow's new government.

Fischer, who was also foreign minister in the previous government, said all the talk about German unification was baseless: "From all parts of Europe, from the north, south, east, and west, we hear voices opposing European unification in favor of the status quo. Everybody knows that the present situation in Central Europe is the basis for stability and cooperation on the continent.

"The two Germanies might draw closer, and we certainly want that to happen, but these relations will develop between two sovereign states. The GDR remains a sovereign state and there can be no question about that," he said.

In response to a question about the possibility of forming ties with Israel, Minister Fischer said that the issue will most likely be raised for discussion soon. "It is obvious that we are interested in an improvement. Goodwill and a realistic outlook by both sides is required for that," Fischer said.

Fischer recalled that there are already cultural and other relations between the GDR and Israel, and he also said he wished to encourage those ties. He said his country was interested "in dealing with the issue and advancing it," and added that he cannot go into details in a newspaper interview.

Fischer said that during his recent visit to the United Nations in New York he initiated through an intermediary a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. "As far as I know, the Israeli minister did not do anything to facilitate it, and from that I reached the conclusion that my move was premature," he said. In response to a question on whether Minister Arens rejected the initiative to meet with him, Fischer said: "I can only say that the meeting never took place."

In response to another question about the link between the renewal of diplomatic ties and GDR readiness to pay reparations to Holocaust victims, Fischer said: "That is certainly one of the issues we should discuss, but again it not a subject for declarations through the press."

At the conclusion of the interview, Fischer reiterated with a great deal of cordiality: "You can certainly reassure Israelis a unification of the two Germanies is not anticipated." [passage omitted]

Hans Modrow, the GDR's new prime minister, told HA'ARETZ yesterday that his country was interested in good and normal relations with all Middle East countries, including Israel. In reply to a question about his government's position on the Israeli-Arab conflict, he said that East Germany supports the right of Palestinian self-determination, and at the same time Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Modrow spoke to HA'ARETZ shortly after his government's swearing-in ceremony. The communist prime minister, who is considered a supporter of reforms and changes, showed interested in what was happening in Israel, and said he hopes to advance relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

New Agricultural Agreement Signed With Egypt

TA1911111189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Nov 89 P A3

[Report by Aharon Pri'el]

[Excerpt] Egypt and Israel signed a new agreement for agricultural cooperation between the two countries in Cairo at the end of last week. The agreement emphasized the comprehensive and intensive development of various fields of production in the western desert, and the investment of millions of dollars.

Dr Muhammad al-Dusuqi, first deputy to the Egyptian agriculture minister, signed the agreement on Egypt's part, while Prof Shmu'el Pohoryles, the director of the Joint Agricultural Planning and Development Authority, signed on behalf of Israel. The signing ceremony was held following a meeting of the two countries' joint agricultural committee, which opened with a speech by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture and Land Reclamation Minister Yusuf Amin Wali. Prof Shim'on Shamir, the Israeli ambassador to Egypt, also participated in the session. The new agreement, in addition to the clauses calling for greater cooperation between both countries as stipulated in previous agreements, also stresses the development of a livestock market in Egypt based on the export of choice sheep and goats from Israel to Egypt and the import of sheep from Egypt to Israel to upgrade the local stock. It was also agreed to establish cattle herds near Alexandria to produce milk with the aid of sophisticated equipment, and, for the first time since the two countries began agricultural cooperation, the new agreement includes a clause on the exchange of information on special species of long-staple cotton between Egypt and Israel. This cotton enjoys the highest demand throughout the world. [passage omitted]

Official Population Figures, Trends Released

TA1711122689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 89 p A5

[Report by Moshe Reinfeld]

[Text] The Central Bureau of Statistics expects the population of Israel to reach 5 million within 5 to 6 years. The population figure this month was 4,537,000, of whom 3,700,000 were Jews (81.6 percent of the population), 650,000 Muslims (14.3 percent), 107,000 Christians, and 81,000 Druze (1.8 percent).

Prof Moshe Siqron, the government statistician, told a Jerusalem news conference on the occasion of the publication of the new Statistical Abstract that in 1988 the population grew by 1.6 percent, less than the 1.8 percent average for the 1980's.

During the previous decade the population increased an average 2.4 percent annually. The growth in the Jewish population in 1988 was 1.3 percent, compared to 3.3 percent for Muslims, 1.9 percent for Christians, and 2.6 percent for Druze. The population growth for the Arab sector in general was 3 percent. Similar growth rates also characterize 1989.

Since early 1980 the population grew by 700,000, of whom 482,000 were Jews (15 percent increase), 167,000 were Muslims (35 percent), 19,000 Christians (22 percent), and 32,000 were Druze, including Golan Heights inhabitants.

Children up to the age of 14 make up 32 percent of the total population, and 8.9 percent are over 65. The bureau's forecasts show that up to the year 2010 the percentage of children up to the age of 15 in the population will continue to fall, the percentage of over 65-year-olds will remain at 9 percent, while the percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds will grow from 42 percent to 48 percent.

The bureau's data also show that in 1988 for the first time over 100,000 were born in Israel and a similar figure is expected this year. The growth in the birthrate in 1988 (1.4 percent) was mainly the result of a certain increase in the number of non-Jewish women of child-bearing age.

The number of births in the Jewish sector did not change in 1988 compared to the previous year, and remained 74 percent of the total number of births despite the 1.3 percent drop in the number of Jewish women of child-bearing age. The explanation is that there has been a 1 percent increase in female fertility in the 25 to 34 age group.

The number of births among Muslims was 22,000 in 1988, which is a 10 percent increase compared to 1986, following a 4.5 percent annual growth rate in the number of Muslim women of child-bearing age since the early 1980's. Last year was the 3d year running that the fertility rate among Muslim women did not decline despite an earlier consecutive drop since the mid-1970's.

The mortality rate in Israel continued to drop from 6.8 for every 1,000 people in 1987 to 6.6 in 1988. The mortality rate dropped in all age brackets, including those over 75. Infant mortality in 1988 was 35 percent lower than at the start of the decade. The mortality rate among Jewish infants in 1988 was 8 for each 1,000 births compared to 12 in 1980. The mortality rate among Muslim infants was 17 for each 1,000 births compared to 26 in 1980.

Balance of Payments To Register Large Surplus

TA1711115589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 89 p 16

[Report by economics correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel will register an $800 million surplus in its balance of payments current account this year, government statistician Moshe Siqron said yesterday. He added that excluding both military imports and the military aid from the United States, the surplus would total about $500m.

Siqron was speaking at a Jerusalem press conference, where he presented the Statistical Abstract for 1989 compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics. He said that the excess of imports of goods and services over exports would total $4.1 billion this year, compared with $5.3b. last year.

Siqron added that excluding military imports, the excess of imports over exports had narrowed by $700m. Grants and contributions from abroad more than covered the deficit for 1989, leaving $800m. in the current account.

Siqron predicted that the gross domestic product would rise this year by about 1 percent, with the business sector product rising around 1.5 percent. Industrial output would fall 2 percent, following a drop of 3 percent in 1988. But Siqron remarked that the drop in hours worked in industry had been much larger, about 6 percent, which meant that productivity was definitely improving in the manufacturing sector.

The fall in industrial output was clearly linked to a marked drop in domestic demand, he said. Private consumption per capita dropped 3.5 percent, and defence spending fell 3 percent in real terms. Public sector civilian expenditure remained stable.

Siqron pointed out that the different indicators showed that economic activity had levelled off in the third quarter of the year. There had been a marked fall in activity in the second quarter, but this decline was not continued over the following three months. Siqron added that several indicators, such as retail trade figures, even showed a slight improvement for the third quarter, but he stressed there were no clear cut signs that a recovery had started.

Although productivity rose, real wages remained stable this year. Salaries in the business sector fell by about 1 percent in real terms, and increased 2 percent in the public sector.

The slowdown in domestic demand was accompanied by a marked increase in the export of goods and services, which rose 4 percent in real terms. Excluding diamonds, these exports rose about 7.5 percent. Imports meanwhile remained stable.

Siqron said that exports of merchandise would register an increase of about $800m. in 1989, while imports would remain stable. In volume terms, imports would register a 7 percent fall.

Cabinet Delays Approval of Supplementary Budget

TA2011075089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Nov 89 p 5

[Report by economics correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] The Treasury yesterday tabled in the cabinet a NIS [New Israeli Shekel] 4.3 billion supplementary budget for fiscal 1989/90.

From the Treasury figures it emerged that the government's domestic deficit would total this year NIS 4.1b., nearly two and a half times the NIS 1.7b. approved by the Knesset in the original budget early in 1989. The cabinet decided to delay approval of the supplementary budget for one week.

After the meeting, Economics Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i lashed out against the supplementary budget saying that it proved that Finance Minister Shim'on Peres "had lost all control over the budget." Moda'i said that the meaning of the Treasury's proposal was "galloping inflation."

Reacting to the accusations, Peres terms Moda'i's remarks "baseless." Peres said the economics minister should remember that his Likud colleagues were responsible for the galloping inflation that ended in 1985. "He should be reminded of who brought an end to that situation," the finance minister said.

According to David Boaz, director of the Treasury's Budget Department, the increase in the deficit was the result of a NIS 1.8b. short-fall in tax revenue from original estimates and a rise of NIS 600 million in domestic spending.

But according to Boaz, the rise in expenditure did not reflect larger outlay in real terms, rather an adjustment of existing items to reflect higher than expected prices and wages.

This view was not shared by all the participants in yesterday's debate. Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno warned the ministers that he had reservations about the claim. When the Treasury officials remarked that the governor did not understand the figures, he replied that the ministry had presented him with the figures so late that he could not know whether there was any basis for their assertion.

Talking later to reporters, Boaz admitted that the NIS 1.7b. budgetary reserve originally approved had been almost exhausted and that there was less than NIS 100m. left. He also conceded that the supplementary budget tabled by the Treasury did not include in it the additional funds that would be needed to absorb a large number of new immigrants this year.

The Treasury, he said, assumed the extra outlay would be funded from a 3 percent across-the-board cut in other ministries' budgets his department was proposing. Boaz said this measure was tantamount to implementing a cabinet decision to cut NIS 150m. from the civilian ministries' budgets already approved in principle by the cabinet last July.

Boaz also admitted that if the cabinet rejected the measures to cut the required NIS 150m. the budget deficit would expand beyond what had been envisaged even in the additional budget.

IDF Prepares for Armed Escalation of Intifadah

TA2111094189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip recently conducted the first exercise of its kind to prepare for the possibility of an escalation of the intifadah and the use of firearms. This was reported to HA'ARETZ by military sources.

The sources added that new methods aimed at curbing such an escalation, if it occurs, were tested in the exercise.

The military sources further reported that the activity of masked individuals in the Gaza Strip has recently subsided. They noted that since the new orders governing the opening of fire at masked persons were introduced in the Gaza Strip—resulting in the killing of 3 and the wounding of 78—a change has taken place in these persons' operations. The sources pointed out that the exercise took into consideration the fact that terrorists in the Gaza Strip possess many weapons.

Marwan al-Qasim Discusses PLO, Peace Plans

JN1711202089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1827 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, moderated by Jordan Television director Muhammad Amin and AL-DUSTUR Director General Salih al-Zu'bi, on the "Topical Affairs" program in Amman, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Amin] Sir, we know that foremost among Jordan's foreign policy priorities are the continuous efforts being made on behalf of the Palestine question. What are the recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict at this stage?

[Al-Qasim] In fact, this is an opportunity to talk about a positive Arab achievement that is aimed at establishing peace. Since July 1988, and with the decision to break ties [with the West Bank], which was made by Jordan in compliance with the request of brothers in the PLO and backed by all Arab leaders, the disengagement decision has led to further Arab response and practical measures for the sake of peacefully resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Naturally, I want to recall the period preceding the disengagement decision. It was the period of coordination between ourselves and our brothers in the PLO, which was known as the 1985 Jordanian-Palestinian accord or agreement. The equation then was that we agreed to an international conference and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Jordanian side would speak about the Jordanian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinian side would speak about the Palestinian-Israeli dimension. These arrangements were made through the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement so that the PLO would be qualified to take its place in the international conference as a main party to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Following the disengagement of ties, there was no longer any justification for any side not to accept an independent Palestinian delegation, particularly after the Palestine National Council resolutions in Algiers and the subsequent speech Yasir 'Arafat delivered in Geneva, as well as the clarifications made in Sweden. The conclusion is that all the justifications the other side had for not moving were removed during that period, the period from the disengagement of ties until now. First of all, the PLO recognized the right of all states to live in security and peace in this region. It accepted Resolution 242, which it had refused to accept for many years, and there is no longer any reason for any party not to be in the equation of peace. It is a fact that all accept Resolution 242. All the Arabs now accept it after the clear Palestinian stand that was taken. The background of this was naturally the Fes summit in 1982, when all the Arab states accepted the concept of land for peace. This is the side I wanted to emphasize.

Since then, the PLO has indicated and proved to all that its decision is a strategic one, and not a tactical or short-term one. It is a decision by which it abided in front of the world, and it is committed to all the guarantees required for the realization of a comprehensive peace. We believe there is no longer any justification for any side whatsoever, whether a superpower or a state directly involved in the conflict, to say no to the PLO. Thus, it has become clear that the Arab side is now integrated in its efforts to establish peace. Moreover, the whole world supports this trend and this concept. Even part of Israeli society supports this trend. Only a small group of Israeli society continues to monopolize the decision not to really move toward peace.

The past year has witnessed two key events—the first being the blessed intifadah, now about to begin its third year, and Jordan's decision to disengage. These two occurrences have had a major impact on Israeli polity, and the intifadah has reached every household around the world. We now have a new situation whereby the Arab side has scored a notable success. Israel decided it had to do something by way of neutralizing the new situation. in turn, it proposed something that had the semblance of moving toward peace or accommodating the demands of the oppressed population in the occupied land. In actual fact, though, Israel's move was a desperate attempt to buy time and overcome the crisis it is experiencing on the domestic and global fronts.

The Israeli prime minister's proposals, which he carried to the United States, lacked any seriousness or sincere intentions concerning peace. Careful scrutiny of Shamir's plan shows it to be a rejection of the principles that may underlie the peace process. He says no to the principle of land for peace; he says no to the legitimate Palestinian right of self-determination; he says no to any change that may affect the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, he keeps saying that he wants peace between Israelis and neighboring Arab states. A state of peace can only come after the Palestinian people have secured their full rights—their right to self-determination and to build their state on their national soil. This is the basis that attracted the entire Arab world in its dispute with Israel. [sentence as heard]

[Amin] Your Excellency the Minister: You have said that last year saw two key events—the intifadah and the disengagement. In what way has disengagement cornered Israel and brought the Palestinian cause to the forefront?

[Al-Qasim] With disengagement, it is no longer possible for any party to hide behind the screen of the Jordanian position. Some people had argued the case for a Jordanian option. Any revival of this option can only be meant as a tactic with which we have been familiar for many years. This is a thing of the past now. There is no such thing as the Jordanian option; there is only the Palestinian option. The Palestinian option is now clear. Under their own leadership, the Palestinian people have taken the route of a just peace predicated by international laws and UN Security Council resolutions binding

on all parties. The resolutions were previously unacceptable to the PLO, but this is no longer the case. The Arab side is not creating any obstacles. Before long, Israel will have to face this reality.

In actual fact, Palestinian rights are what the whole issue is about. The Arab dimension was the outcome of a Palestinian-Israeli dispute over Palestine that expanded to embrace other Arab states. Only if the issue is addressed clearly and directly can the problem be solved. No Arab party is entitled to speak for the Palestinians any more than an Arab country is entitled to speak for another Arab state where rights and policies are concerned; this is a matter of sovereignty.

[Al-Zu'bi] Your Excellency, thank you for allowing us to conduct this interview dealing with the topical affairs around us. Your Excellency, my question deals with what you presented. The talks now revolve around the five points presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and before them, the 10 points presented by the Egyptian Government. However, we notice within the framework of these two initiatives and the scenario of talks on these initiatives that Israeli public opinion and Israeli policy are still at an impasse. This impasse is represented by dealing with the changes in this issue neither on the international, regional, or local levels, nor with peaceful Arab and Palestinian movements to resolve this question on the basis of the international legitimacy represented by Resolutions 242 and 338.

In your opinion, what is the essence of this Israeli stand? Is it a crisis of leadership or a trend of public opinion? This question takes into account that there are large sectors of Israeli people, leaders, and officials who seriously say that it is time to deal with the Palestine question as an issue of people and rights, and that this Arab and international peace should be given a chance to live.

[Al-Qasim] My brother, the requirement of the solution is simply Israel's withdrawal from the land it occupied. It has occupied Egyptian, Syrian, Palestinian, Jordanian, and, later on, even Lebanese territory. This state of affairs shows that peace cannot be achieved without withdrawal. During the past years, Israel rejected withdrawal because of its view of and concern for security. This is no longer an issue now because the Arab world and the PLO, with the utmost objectivity and honesty, have accepted a peace process that can lead to the just and comprehensive peace we are seeking for this region. We are the only party that is still suffering from instability in this region. And this instability is the result of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Therefore, the solution would be achieved first through the Palestinian-Israeli equation. This first requires Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. Also, there should be withdrawals from the other countries it has occupied in exchange for guarantees, which, I believe, the Arab side needs more than the Israeli side. We are the ones who should insist on guarantees through the Security Council.

Any process that would lead to this comprehensive solution requires that there be negotiations. And the PLO, on many occasions, showed a firm desire to negotiate with its rival. The PLO is ready and says: I will negotiate in accordance with 242. Meanwhile, Israel says: No, I do not want to negotiate with the PLO. The PLO—and not any other state—is the only concerned, authoritative party to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people and Palestinian rights.

Israel says: No return of the Arab or Palestinian lands to their people; no Arab or Palestinian sovereignty over these lands; I only want to hold elections for them so that they can organize their daily living arrangements without referring to the concept of the Palestinians' adherence to their lands, their grandfathers' lands, heritage, and creed...

[Al-Zu'bi, interrupting] This means another incomplete version of the Camp David accords?

[Al-Qasim] Israel wants to defuse the Palestinian approach toward peace. This is the main objective. Other than that, any guarantees seeking any country's protection can be achieved through the Security Council, agreements, and disarmament. All these issues are subject to discussion. If there is seriousness, these issues will be discussed on the same level.

[Amin] Sir, with regard to the Jordanian stand on all these developments that were mentioned, Jordan was the first to adopt pan-Arab stands on the Palestine question. The Palestine question was and is still a part of Jordan; Jordan was fully involved in the developments of occupation and in the one fate of the occupied territory—in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. Some people say that in the wake of the disengagement, Jordan's political role with regard to developments in the Palestine question was curbed. What is the truth about this?

[Al-Qasim] Frankly, Jordan's role, even after the disengagement, is the one that pushed the peace process forward. The disengagement is the one which created a new situation. The other superpower had to sit down and hold a dialogue with the Palestinians, that is, the PLO. This action had not been achieved for years. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached in 1985 and 1986 was an attempt to bring the Palestinian stand closer in order to speak in a free voice—within the joint delegation—on the Palestinian dimension. I believe that the Jordanian measure played a major role in the decision that led to the removal of the Kissinger obstacle, which had prevented dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

The other decision, of course, was that the PLO should recognize 242 directly because it is the only authoritative party that is responsible for Palestinian territory. Since Jordan broke ties and since the sons of Palestine were still standing on the land of Palestine and looking to the PLO to represent them, the PLO had to maintain the Palestinian territory through its recognition of 242. The

PLO did this to take away Israel's opportunity for continuing with the attempts it has been making since 1967.

At this point in time, we know that Jordan constantly took steps from 1967 to 1974 to regain the West Bank. It has been always said that it was Palestinian, rather than Jordanian territory. Following the Rabat summit resolution in 1974, the PLO became the sole legitimate representative. Israel was told that the PLO was the side that would negotiate it. They said that they would not deal with a terrorist organization because the latter rejects Resolution 242. But the PLO has accepted Resolution 242. Which side rejects it? This is the truth.

Dealing with Israel over the past 2 decades has shown that on many occasions the Arab side was not able to deal with the Israel mentality. Israel's true intentions toward Palestinian land and rights have been exposed. This also applies to southern Lebanon. Israel entered Lebanon under the pretext of protecting itself against the PLO and Palestinian forces in the PLO. This is how it entered Lebanon. The Palestinian resistance has left southern Lebanon, but at the end of 1989, and after 7 years, Israel is still present in Lebanese territory.

[Al-Zu'bi] Your Excellency the Minister, may I add to what you have just said? As Jordan's role before the disengagement of ties and the PLO's role complemented each other in light of Resolution 242, Jordan was eager to restore the PLO, while the PLO, as a national movement and a national liberation movement, was concerned with all aspects of the the Palestine question. The political decision to disengage ties was aimed, as your excellency said, at quashing Israel's proposal that Jordan's role should be the gate of the solution; at the same time, Jordan's pan-Arab role in the Palestine question has not been nullified. Despite the political decision to disengage ties, Jordan's commitments and role are continuing in light of its geographic location, history, popular cohesion, and pan-Arab position. Jordan's role is continuing, but the mechanism of the solution has necessitated through Arab unanimity that the PLO be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that Israel should hold dialogue.

My question is: Where is the PLO; what is the PLO's role; and how will it deal with the proposals? We know that the PLO has launched its peace plan and expressed it clearly during the UN meetings in Geneva, as you said. But we feel an erosion in the PLO's role and proposals. We feel that sometimes matters are clear, but at other times they are vague. Does this necessitate the restoration of what is called pan-Arab commitment? Here, Jordan's role serves to correct the courses, even at the level of the political expression.

[Al-Qasim] During the 1988 summit, the situation was clear. There was support for the PLO and there was an Arab movement toward the political equation—a comprehensive and just peace—through the international conference. This was also stressed in 1989. I do not believe that the PLO proposals are eroding. I believe that in the long run, it will gain more credibility than the other intransigent sides to the peace process. The PLO's ability to hold a dialogue with all the parties involved in the process to achieve peace, including Israeli society, has been more viable than the Israeli role in Israel or on the international scene.

Regarding the 5-point plan and the 10-point plan, the PLO is the authorized side and it is the side that represents Palestinian rights. Therefore, it knows what to accept and what to reject. In light of our understanding of the PLO's position, we believe that on several occasions the PLO has proved its commitment and its strategic decision to bring about peace by bypassing the difficulties and traps being set along the PLO's way. Regarding the 5-point plan or the 10-point plan, we and the PLO know that any of these arrangements should lead to a comprehensive peace sought by the Arabs and the international community, and even by part of the Israeli society. The international conference is the best setting for a comprehensive agreement to be reached to guarantee and protect all parties' rights.

As I said, the Arab side, as well as the PLO and the Palestinian state in particular, needs guarantees more than Israel. But unfortunately, Israel has over the years been able to give an impression to the world that the side that is hostile, that rejects peace, and that adopts radical positions is the Arab side, particularly the PLO. This excuse is no longer valid in the world's mind and in the minds of many in Israeli society. We sense this in the statements of the current Israeli Government ministers or religious and political groupings—that they want peace. But after 40 years, I do not believe that all these problems can be solved in 4 months out of 1 year. The PLO's position and trend has gained much credibility at all levels. As I said, this was a historic and brave decision, and it was based on a clear-cut strategy in the view of Europe, the United States, the Soviet Union, the Arab region, and the other groupings. We find that their positions are in harmony.

[Amin] Sir, from your excellency's explanation, one notes a tone of desperation that no solution is expected in the near future. Moreover, Shamir's visit [to the United States], the results of which were made known yesterday, indicated that there might have been friction, or that the atmosphere was not cordial between him and the U.S. Administration on several issues, including South Africa, the building of settlements in the occupied territories, and the harsh and violent treatment of the Palestinian people. Moreover, they did not agree to the guarantees he demanded.

Shamir and his camp are considered the ideologists who believe in what they say. Therefore, there was no retreat from what was proposed. The Labor Party is incapable of switching alliances in Israel within such a short period of time that would allow for some hope in peace solutions. There is no doubt that there is congestion in the region. In his foresight, his majesty the king has always warned

that if the doors to peace are closed, there will be tragedies and horrible dangers threatening not only the region but also the entire world. Can you shed some light on the possible existence of despair in the future stage? What type of dangers are there?

[Al-Qasim] Naturally, the continuation of the state of no peace and no war is a negative aspect in any society and any region. The result of this trend will certainly be negative. It might lead to extremism and instability. Instability in this region differs from the instability of any other area in the world. Instability in this region will affect the whole world—east and west—more than any other area can affect it. This is what his majesty the king means in his talk about such dangers if, God forbid, they occur, and if we do not attain the solution we are seeking and hoping to realize.

We still remember how instability in the past affected certain states. Now we are living on the threshold of the nineties and in a time of many rapid changes. We hope that the changes we are witnessing in Europe will not be at the expense of the attention due this region. This is one of the things to which we continuously draw attention. This region is susceptible to violence and instability, and the repercussions of these will certainly be much greater than we imagine. Here comes the awareness we sense in Europe. The European states are very eager to work with all possible efforts to influence those who influence the Likud Party and the Likud members, because in this case they themselves, as well as other states, will also be exposed to dangers. Actually, the dangers of the failure to attain a peaceful settlement will not be confined to certain areas, but will affect the whole world.

[Al-Zu'bi] Actually, I have one last question on the U.S. role in the peace process. From our reading of the U.S. press and the statements made by many U.S. officials, we note that America is in no rush as before, or is not in a position to create initiatives. It is as if the U.S. is taking two steps backward for every step forward. In my opinion, this is based on a study submitted to President Bush's administration on the way to act. This is really based on two factors. One of these studies says the initiatives should come from the region and that there should be some sort of a political or conciliatory atmosphere. Another says that the United States' experience, particularly in Lebanon under the administration of Secretary of State Shultz, still has its reverberations in the American mind, despite the fact that the United States is a superpower with commitments toward peace and security in the region and the world. Your Exellency, do you believe there is a positive development and a rush forward, especially if we take into consideration the initiatives—if it is permissible to call the five points an initiative or mechanism for peace?

[Al-Qasim] Actually, they might be an activation of the peace process. What is important in the U.S. stand is that the United States is still committed to the need to implement Resolution 242 with all its clauses—land for peace, the right of all states to live in peace and security, and at the same time the legitimate Palestinian rights. This is an unwavering U.S. stand. I believe that the latest occasion on which this stand was emphasized was last September—as far as I recall—by the U.S. under secretary of state when he reiterated the unwavering U.S. stand.

Any attempt, any move, and any encouraging and reassuring points leading to the more comprehensive concept—that is, Resolutions 242 and 338—are something we hope will succeed. Likewise, the 10 points proposed by fraternal Egypt include five points that express the same clear Arab stand and have been internationally adopted. These five points are based on international legitimacy affiliated to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and legitimate Palestinian rights. This is the essence of the peace process.

If there are attempts to approach and lead to this essence, it would be an occasion whose success we would hope for. However, we should not believe that there is room for any solution without the participation of the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative. It is the only side concerned. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, or Lebanon cannot speak about Palestinian rights. This is the right of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian people are completely represented by the PLO, which is the authorized and concerned side. Every decision it makes will serve the Palestinian people. Jordan is committed on the national and pan-Arab levels to supporting that trend.

Jordan's relationship with the Palestinian people is essential and distinguished. It is not a matter of geography and family ties. It is a matter of national, pan-Arab, and fateful relations. This is our view. Even before enabling the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative, His Majesty King Husayn took a clear-cut stand on the concept of a united Arab kingdom. This stand calls for giving the Palestinian side its independence, identity, and clear relationship with its cause. This has been His Majesty King Husayn's goal since 1972. He wanted it to be clear to the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the entire world that the Palestinian people have rights and that they are the only people who can talk about their rights.

There have been several attempts to make Jordan a party that represents Palestinians. This was the case before 1967 because there was a state of unity. But after 1988, there was a demand for the need to project the independent Palestinian state. At that time, this demand was met and it was supported by the Arabs and the international community. The countries that recognize the PLO outnumber those which recognize Israel. This is a fact. Israel should face this fact sooner or later. It is inevitable. This is a fact.

On several occasions, the former Israeli prime minister denied the existence of the Palestinian people. After 2 decades, the existence of the Palestinian people has become as clear as the sun itself, and they should be viewed in this perspective. Otherwise, it would only be a

continuous attempt to avoid a problem that must be solved. This problem becomes more complicated with the passage of time. We cannot say that the proposals that may improve the economic or social situation of the Palestinian people will lead to a solution. When the PLO began its leaders were not in need of economic, social, or political improvement. It was a matter of rights in their hearts that they should work to regain them. They reflected what the Palestinian people wanted in later stages. This is a natural right.

[Amin] Sir, indeed, discussion with you is very pleasant. We would have liked to have touched on various political fields, especially concerning the Arab level, as well as in particular the Arab Cooperation Council and the Lebanon question. These two issues are very important. We beg of you to allow us to skip these topics at this time to deal with them in a future issue. However, I would like to ask a final question that is of interest to a large sector of our people. In your capacity as foreign minister, as well as deputy prime minister, what are your reflections on the method and the atmosphere in which the 1989 Jordanian elections took place, on an external level? In addition, what are your visions of the future and whether the upcoming view of the House of Representatives will be a realistic one?

[Al-Qasim] Of course, every Jordanian hopes that the House of Representatives' view will be realistic because ahead of us lie basic and major problems. If there are no practical and realistic solutions there will be a delay in confronting urgent problems which need to be solved as quickly as possible.

Concerning what was seen in the Jordanian arena during the last week on how the elections took place, of course, as a citizen, before being an official, I am very happy to find that this truly democratic practice has run its course in this country. This is an occasion for me to say that we would have liked the true democratic practice to have continued throughout the past years. However, there was the occupation of the West Bank which prevented such a practice. With the disengagement of ties, it became our duty to enter and continue the development of parliamentary and constitutional life, which has not been at all strange for Jordan, even in the days of the Transjordan Emirate. We remember the first legislative council in 1926. It developed all the way up to the forties, fifties, and sixties. Then, we had a break until last week. However, what is comforting... [changes thought]

I, in my capacity as an official, say that whoever witnessed these elections with full freedom, honesty, hope, and responsibility—I am very proud as a citizen and as an official wherever I am in this world. [sentence as heard] I would like to make the comparison here that this region is not as Israel claims it is; namely, that it is the only side practicing democracy and the freedom of elections. I believe that if I sought an opinion from people who witnessed the voting process in Jordan and who have also seen it previously in Israel, such as foreign journalists, I would find out that the difference is still great in true practice. There was no discrimination here between Christians, Circassians, or sects, as is the case in Israel concerning the minorities, whether the Falashas or eastern Jews. Everything that resulted from this practice was a source of pride to all Jordanians and the leadership of this country, which was very concerned that we continue down the course set for us—which we have not been able to do for the past 20 years due to the situation in the West Bank and its fall under Israeli occupation.

[Amin] Thank you sir. And as his majesty said describing the return of democracy—in fact, the return of parliamentary life—this is a national day. We hope this festival continues and yields positive fruit in the future concerning the development of our issues in the various internal and external fields. To conclude this meeting, I am very happy to thank Mr Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, for this pleasant and beneficial meeting. I am also pleased to thank Dr Salih al-Zu'bi, general manager of AL-DUSTUR newspaper and former head of the Strategic Studies Center, for participating in this dialogue. I also thank the audience. I hope we will meet again in another session of "Topical Affairs".

Islamists Questioned About Freedom, Economy

JN1911113889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Nov 89 p 2

[Article by Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Excerpts] We are not a political party, although politics, based on the principles of Islam, is at the heart of our idea; we are not a charitable society, although doing good and carrying out reforms are some of our main objectives. This is what some of the Islamic trend's deputies of the Irbid Governorate have affirmed to SAWT AL-SHA'B.

Those deputies have demanded that responsible freedom, which is in keeping with the principles of Islam, be granted to the community. They have promised not to exceed what the shari'a has stated by first giving the community its rights and then asking it to carry out its duties; after that punishment will be meted out to the deviators.

Talk with the new deputies dealt with the economic crisis, which, for each one of them, constitutes a responsibility that should be given every possible effort in order to end it because, as they say, it is a direct reason for the rest of the social, political, and other problems.

The deputies asserted: We are not seeking high posts; we are not working to glorify ourselves or our work; we do not seek to achieve the impossible within a very short time; we aspire to achieve a first step toward rebuilding and reorganizing the society in a manner consistent with Islam and the wish to modernize and develop.

Those deputies believe in women's rights. They promise to give the woman a better position in the Islamic

community through their role to preach and guide women within the Islamic frame, which is far from bigotry and fanaticism.

The following are interviews with a number of Islamic trend deputies for the Irbid Governorate. The first interview was with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur, 50, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in shari'a from Damascus University. He answered our question regarding the priorities he will put forward before the House of Representatives: Prominent among the demands we will call for in the House are those related to the subject of liberties, because we are certain that responsible freedom is the means for drawing forth all human productive energies in all fields. What is meant by freedom here is personal freedom, which is consistent with the teachings of Islam, and in a manner which enables man to carry out his duties after he obtains his rights. According to my conception, freedom is that of expression and work.

As for the economic crisis Jordan is currently experiencing, we are eager to tackle the country's economic reality and work to develop its resources and fortunes. Here, we must talk about our institutions, companies, and banks so that they can play a fundamental role conducive to the building of the country's economy. Their functional structure should be reconsidered in order to put the right person in the right place. The management of these institutions should be modernized and provided with qualified, creative personnel. The levels of production and marketing should be improved and all needless jobs in companies and institutions should be dispensed with. There should be more effective supervision over the production and marketing conditions of these institutions. [passage omitted]

As for Jordan's indebtedness, its causes should be reconsidered and those responsible for it should be held accountable. There should also be a curb on smuggling funds abroad—if this is proven—in order not to deprive the citizen of investing these funds in Jordan.

Regarding what has recently been said about the Islamic movement's intention to abolish some of the official establishments which depend on tourism, Shaykh 'Ukur said: These rumors are baseless; they pose an accusation that the Islamic movement is narrow-minded and backward. In fact, this movement is aware of the country's social and political nature, which is based on official and non-official institutions. In the beginning, our role will be that of guidance and advice, not compulsion and coercion. We want these institutions to help spread a sound moral atmosphere, away from any corruption or offense to our traditions and values, which are considered an image of our independent character. [passage omitted]

Asked about the deputies' participation in the next government, Shaykh 'Ukur said: What has been known and is prevailing in developed countries is that a deputy is stronger than a minister; a deputy supervises and takes account of things. However, the situation is different in developing countries, although, originally, and as it stands in our Jordanian Constitution, a deputy exercises the role of supervision, accountability, and interpellation. However, we have become accustomed to the idea that the executive authority is stronger than the House of Representatives. We will try to eliminate this idea from the people's mind in order to put the Constitution into effect and emphasize its role in striking a balance among the three authorities in this country. Personally, I do not favor the idea of giving a ministerial post to a deputy because he will then assume two possibly different roles. In his capacity as a deputy, he supervises and questions the executive authority, and in his capacity as a minister, he is watched and questioned. So, how can he question, watch, or judge himself?

On the Islamic movement's intention to nominate one of its members for the speakership of the House of Representatives, 'Ukur said: We might not nominate one of us for the speakership, but we will contribute in electing a speaker on the basis of choosing the most suitable. The most suitable among the brother deputies has to be an impartial, judicious person who gives right its due.

Answering a question about the Islamic movement's source of strength and finance for its activities and moves, 'Ukur said: The Islamic movement is not accidental or new; it has a long history and it is the inheritor of the great message of Islam—ideology, method, behavior, and organization. About its strength in organization and movement, this is due to the principles, aims, and objectives which this movement lives for and deals with. Therefore, we see that the movement is independent in its planning and strength. We say frankly that the enemies of this nation are the enemies of religion. They are the ones who are standing in the way of Islam's sovereignty and strength to keep our nation dependent and subservient. I reiterate that we belong only to Islam and that we depend on our own resources to finance our programs and moves which we carry out solely for God's sake.

Shayhk Muhammad al-'Alawinah, 52, who holds an MA degree says: I have a clear conception for tackling all our problems which are, above all, caused by the fact that people do not strictly adhere to the teachings of Islam. I believe that man cannot give wholly or act righteously unless he has an inner motive and incentive through a set of Islamic values in which he believes, implements, and seeks God's blessings only. [passage omitted]

As for the multiparty system and its introduction to the Jordanian community, I believe that man was born free, and that a sign of his intellectual maturity is to give him the right to choose. What I want to stress here is that if he chooses, he has to commit himself to his choice. If freedom and multiparties are meant to reveal the truth, then they are unobjectionable and an urgent need. However, if they are meant to be, as in most countries of the world, "parties just for the sake of having parties," and for highlighting a certain character, then I think this is

selfishness conflicting with the teachings of Islam. I have no doubt that it will be a harmful experience, but we are trying through it to reach a better state of affairs.

As for fears expressed by some people that the Islamic trend will demand the application of some punishments in accordance with Islam's penal code, Shaykh al-'Alawinah said: Unlike what some people believe, Islam is not an "ogre" frightening people. On the contrary, there is no comfortable atmosphere that can give man the highest sense of dignity as that provided by Islam. Islam enforces its rules on two bases: Piety to God and fair legislation. When there is an inner motive for piety, you will see that there are constraints preventing wrongdoing. If there is wrongdoing, it would be on a small scale. Islam does not enforce its rules at random; it derives them from God's legislation, which is infallible. Islam solves any problem by first providing for needs, then it treats any violation as an anomaly which should be dealt with firmly.

Regarding the subject of minorities living in the Jordanian community who embrace a religion other than Islam, and what has been said that their number is not worth taking into consideration regarding some issues, Al-'Alawinah said: Regardless of religious differences, our task in the House of Representaives is to deal with new developments, and all deputies are entitled to participate in discussing all the proposed issues or finding a suitable solution to them. Accusing us that we will forget about those who are non-Muslims in dealing with any topic is unjust and unfounded.

Regarding the program of the coming government, which will be presented after the government gains confidence, Al-'Alawinah said: This will depend on many things, foremost of which is that the government's approach be consistent with my doctrine as a Muslim.

Columnist Reviews Muslim Brothers' Victory

JN1211174389 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Nov 89 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "The Parliamentary Elections and the Muslim Brothers' Share"]

[Text] The "Muslim Brothers" have achieved a major success in the Jordanian elections. With 26 candidates, they managed to get 20 seats in the House of Representatives—a percentage of 25, which approximately equals the percentage of total votes they received.

However, an analysis of these figures will show that they have not received an overwhelming mandate from the Jordanian people as it would appear at first glance. Their success resulted from two factors. First, they were organized against independent candidates and small fragmented groups. Second, a large percentage of the silent majority did not take part in the elections.

We calculated the Brothers' share in each electoral district by taking the arithmetic mean of the votes their candidates received, both winner
derived the percentage of thosers and losers. We then
Brothers from the total number ofse who voted for the
their share of votes was highest of voters. It appears that
with 47.1 percent and lowest int in Irbid constituency
percent, Jerash with 13.8 percent,in al-Mafraq with 10.7
Jordan Valley with 15.4 percent, and al-Kurah and the
constituencies they received 30.1 nt. In Amman's seven
l percent of the votes.

It also appears that the number o
the Brothers' candidates in all cor of those who voted for
calculated in the abovementionnstituencies in Jordan,
without excluding the votes wined way, is 143,803,
received for personal or tribal reawhich they, of course,
asons.

Hence, in the whole of Jordan, th
share is 27.4 percent of the valid the "Muslim Brothers'"
those who actually cast their votes, ballots, 25.9 percent of
who collected their voting cards, s, 16.4 percent of those
registered electorate, and 10.2 pers, 14.1 percent of the
to vote. ercent of those entitled

Although the chances for success
dent on the ratio of votes to the are practically depen-
must take into account the fact tha number of voters, we
ers" group was well organized. Th at the "Muslim Broth-
their supporters registered their na his guaranteed that all
those whom they could influence, ames and the names of
cards on the scheduled date, and , collected the voting
ballot boxes to cast their votes. d actually went to the

On the other hand, the breakdown
if voting for the Brothers' list had of votes indicates that
"Yes" or "No," the "No's" wod been in the form of
percent of the valid votes, 74.1 perould have been 72.6
83.6 percent of the people who carcent of the total votes,
had all cast their votes), and 89 voting cards (if they
entitled to vote. 9.9 percent of those

The "Muslim Brothers" list cand
strength coming up the top windidates showed great
underestimate the significance of nners. We must not
received. However, we must unders the percentage they
this success and the factors that led stand the real size of
d to it.

Columnist on Need To Separate Religion, State

JN1211182389 Amman AL-RA'Y in n Arabic
12 Nov 89 P 26

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-
Issues and Elections"] -Rahim 'Umar: "Our

[Text] When the crisis erupted in s
April, economic problems were bel southern Jordan last
several less severe cultural and me hind this crisis, and
behind the economic crisis. The two edia problems were
democracy and the crisis of publio crises, the crisis of
chronic many years ago. ic liberties, became

However, no one spoke about a crisis
religiousness, or the availability of s related to worship,
houses of worship.

Moreover, no one spoke about or, in fact, no sectarian crisis has existed to create a religious reaction.

When a plan to hold elections was announced, all sides expected the election of a parliament whose main objective would be to confront the real crises from which the country is suffering. Whether it was that the citizen did not search for the electoral program that would deal with the current problems or that he could not understand his living conditions, or whether it was that the most enlightened class did not participate in the elections, the result is the same; namely, that the main approach of the voter failed to indicate an awareness of the seriousness of the current situation, but rather his tendency to worship and follow the ideological trends encouraging him to march forward on this path. So, are these trends responsible for what looms in the horizon in terms of reluctance to confront our real problems, and is this something that will find problems or wage battles that are not our real problems or battles?

No one has the right to object to a citizen's inclination or thinking as long as the way to express these tendencies takes place only within the framework of the law. Here begins the solution, or the problem becomes further complicated. The solution lies in separating religion and state as in the rest of the world. The complication of the problem stems from the fact that those who believe in politicizing religion put their belief on the same footing with their belief in the sanctity of religion itself. The difference between the two beliefs and the confusion between them are clear. Those who believe in politicizing religion rely on their right to think in accordance with their convictions. However, at the same time, they deny others this right. Despite this, they raised slogans of pluralism during the election campaign.

Engaging in vituperation is not to the point. The important thing is to answer the following question: Are those brothers, those who are called the Muslim Brotherhood, ready to cooperate with all sides to resolve this country's pressing problems? Or do they insist on cutting off any approach of this kind to implement the program they advocate, and thus make us fall into the maelstrom of differences and conflicts whose results we have seen in several countries afflicted by them?

His majesty the king's insistence during his news conference on continuing along the path of democracy makes us feel optimistic that it might be possible to find a special approach for national action above party gains that will place the homeland's interests over any other consideration. We will wait until matters move away from the circle of speculation and interpretation that can be either right or wrong.

Creditors Agree To Reschedule Jordan's Debts

JN2011212489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 80

[Text] An agreement was signed at the Ministry of Finance this morning between the Jordanian Government and the Finnish Government to reschedule $1,253,187 of the Finnish loan extended to the Jordan Electricity Authority by the Finnish financing institution [name as heard]. The said amount represents the full installments overdue in the years 1989 and 1990. This amount will be repaid over 10 years starting in 1990 after a grace period of 5 years. As the loan was without interest, these installments were rescheduled without interest. The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah on behalf of the Jordanian Government and by the Finnish ambassador to Damascus on behalf of the Finnish Government.

Based on the agreement's minutes with the Paris Club, rescheduling agreements were also signed with the U.S. Government, the Danish Government, the Spanish company for guaranteeing exports [name as heard], and the FRG Government, in addition to the abovementioned arrangement with Finland.

'Awn Grants Interview to AL-ANWAR

NC2011113689 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 18 Nov 89 pp 1,4

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by AL-ANWAR correspondent Fu'ad Da'bul and 'Ismat al-Musawi, correspondent of the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, in B'abda Palace on 16 November]

[Text] [Correspondent] General 'Awn rejects the al-Ta'if agreement. Where do you want to lead Lebanon? Where will your policy take the country?

['Awn] The Lebanese situation has two aspects, domestic and external. Regarding the external aspect, I want Lebanon to return to its status within the Arab League according to its charter. This is a desirable status. Regarding the international aspect, I want Lebanon to return to the United Nations as a member state, which is also a desirable thing. As for the domestic situation in Lebanon, it must be built on new foundations, because the events that occurred in Lebanon have made drastic changes in its social structure. There are old and new ideas that must stem from the internal changes. These new convictions cannot come from abroad through any recommendation. They cannot come from the major or minor powers, or even from the Arab countries. They must emerge from a roundtable meeting of the Lebanese parties themselves. Thus the Lebanese parties can determine what they want and what they do not want for Lebanon. Proceeding from a clear dialogue, they can define Lebanon's external relations. This is simply my plan to reestablish Lebanon as an Arab state, with total sovereignty within the Arab fold and the international community and according to international charters. I want it to be a country that is subject to reforms and changes and whatever else you like. My sole concern is to consolidate justice and equality among all Lebanese. This cannot come from outside, but must emanate from needs that we Lebanese must define together around the table.

I cannot impose a view on any party that is good or bad for it. Every party must say what is good and what is bad. I and the others can spell out our views and what we represent around the table. We must sit down together because national accord must not be brought about by outside pressure. The al-Ta'if agreement did not meet this requirement nor did it satisfy any of the Lebanese parties. All Lebanese are against it. Despite this, an atmosphere of pressure for its implementation is being created. The question is for how long? When the balance of power changes, this situation will expolode anew. The al-Ta'if agreement is not a solution, rather, it is a new problem that will maintain the Lebanese conflict.

[Correspondent] Seven months ago, you launched a war to unify Lebanon through liberation. Today, the country is heading toward partition instead of liberation and unification. How do you see the stage after a cabinet is formed, in view of world recognition of and support for such a government?

['Awn] No doubt we are in a free area and the other area is under occupation. Whatever the world's logic is, be it with or against that government, this means nothing to us as Lebanese, particularly since the other area is under a non-Lebanese authority. Although certain parties consider that power fraternal, we consider it as an occupying enemy and adversary. We believe that the free area has the right to speak for Lebanon. Pronouncements under occupation are an expression of the will of the occupiers. Lebanon is considered partitioned if one area is liberated and we fail to reach an agreement. Since there is a free area and an occupied one, we will continue to seek to unify Lebanon according to national values and in an atmosphere of freedom. Lebanon cannot be unified under occupation. Unification can only come in an atmosphere of freedom; there can be no other way.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, there is a radical turn of events under way. There is a new president recognized by all countries and ambassadors are submitting credentials to him. How do you hope for the political continuation of your government in light of the international recognition of another government. Financial resources will be made available to the other side and blocked to your area. How can this situation continue?

['Awn] Let me tell you this: The Lebanese state is being financed by the Lebanese people and not the other way round. It is the internal wealth of the country which is deposited in the Central Bank. We can finance ourselves without resorting to the Central Bank. We can impose taxes or collect the existing taxes and finance ourselves. The financial issue is resolved.

As for the world's recognition, the whole world cannot abolish a people who want to live. The world is giving a temporary chance and promising its support for a government that is being formed. But, in the absence of popular support, that government does not have the prerequisites for survival. I am not just referring to the people in our area, for those certainly do not support it. I mean the people who live under occupation, for they too do not support it.

The world may ignore this popular feeling for a while, but it cannot do so for ever. Therefore, I am calling for steadfastness. Steadfastness in the free area will breath a new life into the occupied area. I believe that the occupied area will remain resentful of occupation indefinitely, for these areas are experiencing the imperialist climate that this occupation creates. However, the firm stand of the free area may weaken in the absence of the occupation's direct pressure. However, if they [not further specified] make the mistake of pressuring us, our resistance will renew and our resolve will strengthen.

I do not want to be a (Machiavellian) and hope that they may persecute us and fire a few shells at us, but any such threat will cement our unity and resolve. Nothing can be more perilous to society's integrity and resolve than prosperity. Persecution and guns consolidate unity. The best proof is that the free area has never stood as firm as

it does today in the face of the whole world. Why is that? This is not the result of good treatment, but of the Syrian gun.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you say that the eastern areas are standing firm, while they are actually divided. The patriarch is away and so are politicians whom you describe as former deputies. What kind of unity is this?

['Awn] Of course, everything should be seen in its right perspective. A party leader may be speaking for himself only or for a broad popular base. Those who left the eastern areas did so because of the al-Ta'if agreement. You have been a witness to what happened in Lebanon. Those individuals to whom you referred—how much support do they have among the Lebanese? I do not want to denigrate anyone, but if you hold a referendum among the Lebanese or collect accurate statistics, how many of the people will you find these deputies represent? If you ask 30 percent of the Lebanese in the eastern areas and another 30 percent in the eastern areas for their opinion, you will find that the Lebanese people do not agree with al-Ta'if and never will.

The Lebanese were not represented in al-Ta'if, for their opinions were not heard there. Therefore, those individuals represent themselves only and not anyone else. This is why there has been a breach of well-established and respected religious traditions in Bkirki. The people stood against the patriarch for his political stand, not for his religious views or clerical position. What happened was because of the patriarch's political stand. It was also a violation of all the established ways in dealing with the head of the church.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, is there any danger to the democratric and press freedoms in East Beirut? Your latest statement on suppressing the media has generated great fear for freedom and democracy in a region of limited size.

['Awn] Yes, there is a danger to freedom, but it comes from the press. Freedom is jeopardized by the private radios. Freedom is not being jeopardized by the authority. What exactly do they want? Do they want to defend an accord seeking to subjugate us to what exists in the occupied territory? Where does the danger come from? Does it come from the authority or is it the result of your yielding to the occupation? Have you realized where the danger lies? Suppose your newspaper is published in the occupied territory. How much freedom would you enjoy? Would you consider your defense of the al-Ta'if accord a defense of the second example [as published] in occupied Lebanon? Would they allow you there to encroach on stands they adhere to? The stand for freedom is an indivisible one.

[Correspondent] Prime Minister, do we take it that you advocate the dictatorship of a unilateral stand in a separate area?

['Awn] No. To be quite clear, I do not mean a unified media position on a national cause, on a struggle for the homeland, and on a struggle within the homeland. Do anything you like inside the homeland, but when the struggle becomes a threat to the entity and the existence of the homeland, this is forbidden. I cannot defend those who want to surrender Lebanon. Why was the war launched against Syria? It was launched to prevent Syria's control of Lebanon. When army men are martyred in defense of Suq al-Gharb or when they are ready to be martyred in defense of Lebanon, and then a resolution or an accord abolishing Lebanon emerges, the defense of such a resolution or accord is not a political freedom.

[Correspondent] Those who agreed to the al-Ta'if accord viewed it as an opportunity to solve the crisis in a specific period of time. You, Prime Minister, oppose the accord yet you do not propose an alternative. They have got an agreeemnt, while you do not have one, nor do you have an alternative solution.

['Awn] Do you believe the Syrians will leave Lebanon in 2 years? Do you believe in a Syrian withdrawal in the presence of a government and a chamber of deputies formed by Syria and in light of agreements and distinguished relations? What does the accord say? It says they will deploy in area (...) [as published] and in other areas. Perhaps they will deploy in Juniyah, al-Ashrafiyah, and B'abda after the 2 years are over. Is the withdrawal guaranteed after 2 years? The accord stipulates redeployment. The defenders of the accord today say we are more Lebanese than the general and ask: Why does the general monopolize this right? All this is well and good . I am arguing about articles and explaining how matters in Lebanon will be under Syrian control. Let them be kind and give us one convincing answer to the questions which were raised from the legal and practical points of view, instead of indulging in passions and asking me: General, are you more Lebanese than everyone else? All this is fine, but tell me what you have done about the al-Ta'if accord articles.

[Correspondent] So there is no solution. They are clinging to what they have achieved and you do not propose any alternative solution.

['Awn] There is a solution, there are a hundred solutions. Internally, we need to sit down with each other and say what we want. Why am I displeased with the al-Ta'if accord ? Do I represent anyone in Lebanon or do I not? Why was I absent from al-Ta'if ? Does Deputy Auguste Bakhus represent more people than I do? Is that why he was present and had a vote? Why were the key Lebanese figures, who do represent the Lebanese people, ignored? So there must be a fraud. The world does not change, it is steadfast and seeks to lay its hands on Lebanon. I, too, have a firm goal. It is to defend Lebanon and prevent the world from laying its hands on Lebanon.

[Correspondent] The Arabs are not with you, Mr Prime Minister, nor is the outside world. Nobody is supporting

your gover
come and o
nment now. From where will your power
n what are you relying?

['Awn] First
the history
world can cr
we are, but
proceeding
strength, an
respects pow
the end of th
barbaric line
there were n
tures, or hur
start of a ne
of all, our experience is without precedent in
of the modern world. We admit that the
ush us, because it is stronger and bigger than
it cannot force us to surrender. We are
on the basis of our faith in ourselves, our
d our legal position in a world that only
er. This world, now that we are approaching
e 20th century, will either proceed along the
e it has been following and crush us—as if
o prophets, messengers, philosophers, scrip-
man rights—or our position will herald the
w order of justice in the world.

[Correspond
supporters d
about becaus
brainwashed.
ent] Your opponents at home say that your
o not know what the al-Ta'if agreement is all
e they have not read it and they have been

['Awn] We ex
heir to a po
common peo
through his e
were not pre
do not follo
compared me
panion in st
political inhe
ness of the
patriotism.
xplained the al-Ta'if agreement. I am not an
litical family. Gen 'Awn comes from the
ple and rose to a position of responsibility
energy, views, and work. Thus, the people
disposed to follow me blindly. The people
v anyone unless they want to. They have
with my predecessors in power. My com-
ruggle is the people's awareness and not
ritance. My support stems from the aware-
people, who have shown unprecedented

[Corresponde
Prime Minist
democracy or
you call for d
nt] Among the things said against you, Mr
er, is that as a soldier you do not accept
any opinion different from yours, but still
emocracy.

['Awn] What
should listen t
that takes all
one individua
into a single
higher levels
any other priv
our lessons in
work meetings
then become
opinions is pa
imagine.
is democracy? Democracy means that one
to other opinions and then make a decision
views into account, not just the views of
al. It is reassembling a group of opinions
opinion. I believe that the military at its
comes closer to applying democracy than
ate or public insititution in the world. All
the military establishment are analytical
s to reassemble the decision, to which we
committed. Therefore, listening to other
rt of our nature, contrary to what people

[Correspondent
Arab level. Wh
that for the
d'affaires cros
regime?
nt] You depended on Iraq's support at the
hat is Iraq's position now, bearing in mind
first time in 10 years the Iraqi charge
sed to West Beirut to recognize the new

['Awn] Iraq su
Syrian occupat
and unalterabl
occupation fro
whether it is I
Lebanese inter
upported us in our position against the
tion, and its position on this issue is firm
e. It calls for the removal of the Syrian
m Lebanon, regardless of who is in power,
or someone else. Based on this fact, the
nal position is independent. Iraqi support
is unconditional, and it has nothing to do with me, since it is part of Iraq's general policy in the Arab world. One of the unshakeable rules of Saddam Husayn's policy is that no Arab country should dominate another Arab country and no Arab state should occupy another Arab state.

[Correspondent] Do you think time is on your side or on the side of the others?

['Awn] Time is on my side and favors our cause. Time always stands by the right.

[Correspondent] Some say you survive because you benefit from the contradictions and negative aspects of the Lebanese crisis.

['Awn] My policy is based on the elimination of all Lebanese contradictions. The first contradiction I eliminated was when we ascertained that the war was not inter-Lebanese and so made it a national war, removed the label of sectarianism, and opened up to others. It was I who eliminated all these contradictions. I am the only one who raised the slogan that the war is not an inter-Lebanese problem, but a national issue.

The other parties base their positions on contradictions. I did not bring Hizballah here or create its problems with the Amal Movement. I did not bring Hizballah here to create a Shiite-Sunnite contradiction in Lebanon. All these parties came to Lebanon via Damascus. Before they came, the Lebanese people had lived in serenity.

[Correspondent] The al-Ta'if agreement is supported by part of the Lebanese people and opposed by another part. Why can there be no compromise between the two?

['Awn] What part of the Lebanese people supports the al-Ta'if agreement? Don't name those who rejected it; just name those who accepted it.

[Correspondent] At least the politicians who voted for it.

['Awn] They are a handful of men and number no more than 100. The al-Ta'if agreement died and they attended its funeral. Most sects reject it. It is accepted only in a part of Beirut.

[Correspondent] Why did it die?

['Awn] It was stillborn. It does not breathe and it will not be implemented.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, do you reject the al-Ta'if agreement for the sake of rejection? Why not propose an alternative? Why propose a solution that is honorable for all parties?

['Awn] The solution must be reached here in Lebanon and not in al-Ta'if or Paris. The Lebanese can meet in the Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies headquarters], make genuine reforms, and conduct free elections under the supervision of the United Nations and Arab forces.

[Correspondent] Who will hold a dialogue? The deputies elected a president and your government dissolved the Chamber of Deputies.

['Awn] No. The deputies no longer represent the Lebanese people. Every sect can choose 10 people to represent it. The issue is not one of numbers but quality. Every sect can send representatives and every party can define its goals and views, and we can formulate a framework for a solution.

[Correspondent] What are we to do with the new president of the Republic? Shall we have two presidents after having lived well over a year with two governments?

['Awn] You should ask me what to do with Lebanon and not about individuals, be it the elected president or anyone else. What counts is the continuity of the people. Are we acting to remain here in this chair? No. We are here to find a solution. We must be part of such a solution or make the efforts necessary to reach it. In either case, we would have done our duty.

[Correspondent] Your opponents have the impression that you reject any solution and obstruct any settlement because you want to remain in B'abda.

['Awn] If I wanted to stay in B'abda, I would have accepted the solution that I oppose. I am in B'abda and in office. Offers come to me and I reject them and continue to fight. Would anyone risk his life for this unless he has higher ideals to fight for? The Syrians spent $2 billion worth on ammunition in Lebanon. Had I a desire for money, they would have given me one-half or one-quarter to buy me. I would not have had to accept the agreement but merely to have remained silent about many things. I am not an outlaw against authority nor am I seeking it. My sole goal is to liberate Lebanon.

[Corrrespondent] Are we to understand from what you say that you still want to unify Lebanon? It is being said that you had previously sought unification through liberation, but now that you have encountered difficulties you are taking it to partition.

['Awn] If I wanted partition, why would I have created all these problems? I would have been satisfied and remained silent and things would have gone on undisturbed.

[Correspondent] Are there any forces that are interceding especially to make you step down?

['Awn] Yes, the entire world. Everything will be rejected unless the natural right to a free and independent life in Lebanon is secured. This is an inalienable right that cannot be relinquished. It is a right given to us by birth and no human power can make us give it up. We believe that a human being is born with rights given by God that he cannot relinquish becuase they are inherent and intrinsic. These things that others demand are not negotiable. We may negotiate interests but not rights.

Sham'un, Abu-al-Lam' Criticize U.S. Envoy

NC2011133389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] General 'Awn met today with Faruq Abu-al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, and Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, to discuss recent developments.

Commenting after the meeting, Sham'un said: We are in agreement on all matters, especially on the need for calm in our area.

Asked what he thinks is going to happen, he replied: I repeat we are enjoying calm and stability.

Sham'un criticized the U.S. ambassador's moves in the north and expressed surprise that the ambassador should present his credentials to President Mu'awwad on an official holiday.

For his part, Abu-al-Lam' criticized the position Ambassador John McCarthy announced in the north. Abu-al-Lam' asked: By what kind of logic, diplomatic norm, or political decorum, does the ambassador of a superpower such as the United States, which claims to be friendly with Lebanon and concerned with Lebanon's security and coexistence among its people, allow himself to incite political and party figures against responsible leaders?

Abu-al-Lam' said: If Ambassador McCarthy was surprised by the silence of these figures, I am astonished at such a provocative statement which harms the dignity of all Lebanese, and which is considered flagrant foreign intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. I wonder whether the United States would allow the Lebanese ambassador in Washington to intervene in its internal affairs. Abu-al-Lam' noted the dignity of a people cannot be measured by the size of their territory or the importance of their state, no matter how great these may be.

Agreement on Formation of Government Reached

NC2111082889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Press sources have disclosed that an agreement was reached on the formation of a 14-member cabinet during the elected president's meeting with Prime Minister-Designate and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. The realization of this government, sources say, is contingent on the approval of Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt.

Citing persons close to Birri and Junblatt, the same sources said Birri and Junblatt reject the formation of this government, especially if Dr Sa'adah does not take part in it. Birri and Junblatt believe a genuine reconciliation government should consist of 26 ministers to make it more representative.

Paper Cited on Condition for Syrian Withdrawal

NC2111093389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Citing a source close to Damascus, AL-NAHAR has reported a Syrian withdrawal from parts of Lebanbon may be effected on the condition Prime Minister General 'Awn agrees to relinquish power to the new government.

Egyptians Said Wounded in Clash With Iraqis

NC2111075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Labib Ibrahim, Egyptian charge d'affaires in Baghdad, has stated 70 Egyptians were wounded during a clash with the regime's popular army.

Another diplomat told AFP an Egyptian worker was killed in Baghdad when he was run over by a truck last Friday.

Meanwhile, a REUTER correspondent has reported he saw hundreds of Egyptian workers lining up outside travel agencies in Baghdad to purchase tickets to return home.

National Front Reviews Political Developments

NC2011134689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The National Front met in the office of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri today to discuss local developments. Birri and representatives of the various members of the front attended. The following statement was issued after the meeting:

The front discussed recent political developments, particularly those related to the formation of a national unity government as stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement, in light of the developing situation of partition under Michel 'Awn, which is subjecting the country's unity and the citizens' safety to great dangers regarding all political, economic, security, and supply matters. The front is anxious to keep Lebanon out of a new cycle of violence, and consequently, it reminds all those concerned of the following facts:

1. Lebanon's unity is a red line which the front will not let anyone violate. It calls on all Lebanese to confront the secessionist plot and to refuse to coexist with it or live under its aegis in any circumstances. It also appeals to our kinfolk in the eastern areas to participate seriously in confronting this situation and foiling it for the sake of saving Lebanon from the evils inherent in it.

2. Out of its concern to benefit from the existing opportunity for a solution, the front reminds everyone the formation of a national unity government requires real national participation. The front will not allow the silence of some parties or blackmail by others to weaken the process of forming a government or exclude a comprehensive national representation in the decision-making centers, nor will it agree to have certain parties, areas, and sects monopolize the representation. The front stresses that the blood of its martyrs expresses the united popular will. It also points out that had it not been for the blood of its martyrs and the sacrifices of our people for 15 years, Lebanon would not even have had the minimum opportunities with which the National Front has agreed to deal positively, despite its reservations.

3. From this premise, the National Front calls on the president of the republic and the national accord prime minister-designate to confront the partition and to act immediately by taking decisive measures to foil the partition and restore Lebanon's unity. It also declares it is not willing to participate in any government outside this framework.

Junblatt, Birri Want Defense, Finance Portfolios

NC2111091589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] According to West Beirut sources, one of the obstacles facing Prime Minister-Designate al-Huss in his efforts to form a government is the demand by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt that he be given the defense portfolio and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's request for the finance portfolio. Al-Huss is said to reject these demands and to intend to give the defense and finance portfolios to members of the Chamber of Deputies.

General 'Awn Addresses Flag Day Ceremony

NC2011132289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed that the world has come to realize the Lebanese people reject subjugation, surrender, and humiliation, and love freedom, and make great sacrifices for the sake of their sovereignty, flag, and sanctities.

Addressing students on the flag day anniversary, 'Awn said: Your insistence on celebrating this anniversary in these particular circumstances is a tribute to the blood of the martyrs, shed in defense of the Lebanese flag, the banner of honor and pride. Who is better qualified than the younger generation, the men of the future, to remind everyone, both those who are near and those who are far away, to join the marches of dignity and freedom. These marches have emerged from underneath the rubble caused by the occupiers' guns and have become vociferous, rejecting the writ of surrender signed in al-Ta'if.

Addressing teachers, he said: Your mission will fail if you do not start the day by teaching the great national anthem. This anthem may lose its sanctity unless you instill in the younger generations a love of the homeland that is second only to their love of God.

General 'Awn said: In Lebanon there is a people, not herds driven to barns and slaughterhouses. Rather, there

is a noble and proud people in Lebanon, whose civilization dates back more than 6,000 years. This people has made sacrifices and offered martyrs that preserved Lebanon throughout the eras of oppression, tyranny, mandate, and occupation.

'Awn finally repeated the vow, in his name and on behalf of the soldiers, martyrs, and heroic citizens who gave their lives for Lebanon, to struggle for the sake of Lebanon.

Mu'awwad Returns to West Beirut From Ihdin

NC2011143889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad returned to West Beirut this afternoon. He was accompanied by Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi and Deputies Ilyas al-Khazin and Butrus Harb.

President Mu'awwad is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister-designate Dr Salim al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to discuss the results of the meetings and consultations held in the north during the past 2 days.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Junblatt, Comments

NC2011144889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt received in al-Mukhtarah this afternoon Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha who was accompanied by embassy staff members. The meeting was attended by PSP deputy leader Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad and Political Bureau members Antoine al-Ashqar and Dawud Hamid.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Kolotusha said the current situation is complicated and sensitive. Replying to a question, he added: Lebanon is going through a very critical stage and in such circumstances, it is necessary for us to consult with Walid Junblatt on the current situation.

Lebanese Front Leader on Al-Ta'if Accord

LD1611201489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1424 GMT 16 Nov 89

[By Imad Ajami]

[Text] Beirut, Nov 16 (KUNA)—Head of the Lebanese Front and the Phalange Party Dr George Sa'adah said Thursday that the accord concluded in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia by Lebanese Parliament members is guaranteed to be implemented, and renewed his criticism to General 'Awn for his ongoing campaign against Lebanese parliamentarians.

In an interview with Kuwait news agency (KUNA) at his home in Shabtin in northern Lebanon, Dr Sa'adah said the al-Ta'if accord has activated the Lebanese constitutional bodies to play their roles on the levels of the Presidency, parliament, and government.

He stressed that the military government of General 'Awn had been only a transitional government whose aim is to prepare for the election of a president.

He stressed that no military rule can be established in Lebanon whatever the circumstances and conditions might be.

He said that in case the Politburo of the Phalange Party took a decision on joining the government of Premier-designate Salim al-Huss "this would be a binding decision and everyone has either to accept it or to resign."

On the al-Ta'if accord on national reconcilation, Dr Sa'adah said the agreement is "immune" contrary to previous agreements that had not been implemented in the past.

He explained saying that the accord is guaranteed by the statement of the Arab tripartite committee which gave assurances and guarantees that the Arab summit conference would follow up its implementation.

He added that the tripartite committee and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia in meetings with Lebanese Parliament members have given the required guarantees.

He further said that the visits to Algeria, and Morocco, which are members of the tripartite committee, by the parliament members were made to express thanks to the Algerian and Moroccan leaders and get the personal guarantees directly from President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II.

Contacts were also conducted with the UN secretary general and then a statement was made by the Security Council supporting the al-Ta'if agreement, Sa'adah said and referred to the support to the accord announced by the majority of the world countries.

The Phalange Party leader said General 'Awn had made a grave mistake when he launched a campaign against the parliament members not only after al-Ta'if meeting, but a long time ago since he became head of the military government.

He said however, that he is ready to forget all these campaigns and to meet with 'Awn for the interest of Lebanon and stressed that if 'Awn's position is based on the al-Ta'if accord "I am sure I can convince him of the agreement, but if his position is a final one, I have to ask him why he had accepted the seven points of the Arab committee at a time he was able to reject them, and in that case the al-Ta'if meeting would not have been held."

Dr Sa'adah hoped that parliamentary elections would be held in Lebanon "so as to be a referendum on the legitimacy of the parliament members and what they had done in al-Ta'if."

Military Activities Reported in Western Al-Biqa'

NC1811084889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] At 2030 yesterday, a Zionist force attempted to advance toward al-Jabbur, Abu Rashid, al-Surayri, and other positions held by the Islamic resistance in western al-Biqa'. The force, supported by infantry and vehicles, was confronted by the heroes of the Islamic resistance. The Islamic resistance artillery shelled the enemy infiltrators and forced them to retreat. No losses have been reported.

Meanwhile, the enemy has shelled 'Ayn al-Tinah, Mashgharah, and nearby areas. There have been no reports of casualties.

An Islamic resistance group at dawn yesterday planted mines behind the lines controlled by agent Lahd's gangs near Anan, in the Jazzin area. An agent patrol was hit by a mine and its personnel were either killed or wounded. The enemy then retaliated by raking the vicinity with gunfire as ambulances removed the wounded.

In another development, 'Ayta al-Jabal came under 155-mm artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions in Haddathah. A woman was seriously injured and subsequently hospitalized, and several homes suffered damages.

'Ayn al-Mir also came under 82-mm shelling from enemy positions in Kafr Falus. The enemy also bombarded 'Ayta al-Sha'b.

Meanwhile, the AL-SUHUFIYAH news agency has disseminated a report on the torture camps inside the occupied strip. The news agency said there are two camps in the strip, apart from the one in al-Khiyam. One is Saff al-Hawa camp near Bint Jubayl and the other is in al-'Ayshiyah. The inmates of these two camps are subjected to even more brutal forms of torture than are used in al-Khiyam. This fact was disclosed by inmates recently freed from these camps, who say all those detained by the occupation forces and Lahd militia are transferred to one of these two camps.

According to the same report, the first camp is run by agent 'Aql Hashim while the second is run by agent Ahmad Shibli. The two agents take their orders from Zionist officers. The detainees are suffering from the chilly weather in the absence of heating facilities, and the rain seeps into their rooms, endangering their health. The detainees also suffer from hunger as they only get food irregularly and in meager quantities.

Group Attacks Syrian Patrol in Northern Lebanon

NC1811100189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced one of its units at 2230 yesterday ambushed a Syrian Army patrol on the Diddah Road near abandoned barracks of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. The unit wounded a first lieutenant and his driver, exchanged fire with a third member of the patrol, then escaped.

The organization declared Northern Lebanon in general and Tripoli in particular a military zone.

Katyushas Near Norwegian Unit Positions in South

TA1811162689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Ten Katyusha rockets landed near the village of Kawkaba in the eastern sector of the security strip in Southern Lebanon last night. No one was hurt. Some of the rockets landed near positions manned by the Norwegian contingent of the UN forces.

DFLP Fighter Killed in Clashes With SLA

NC1811204089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced one of its fighters died today during clashes with the South Lebanese Army [SLA] along the Kafr Falus front.

'Awn Military Movements Noted in Mountain Area

NC1911131089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The papers today report military movements by the 'Awn-controlled 8th Brigade, shock troops, and military police units along the line extending from the Suq al-Gharb front to al-Dikwanah and al-Rabiyah. The reports describe the situation in East Beirut as tense, and note that 'Awn's artillery units are being reinforced and that military positions are being prepared.

Device Explodes Inside West Beirut Restaurant

NC1911180089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] An explosive device comprising two sticks of dynamite and a 60-mm mortar round went off in front of the generator room inside the Suqrat Restaurant on Blitz Street [in West Beirut] at 0200 this morning causing property damage.

'Nationalist' Positions in Mountains Under Fire

NC2011061289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The 'Awn gangs have resumed their violations of the cease-fire on the mountain combat lines. They directed intermittent machinegun and rocket fire at the nationalist positions in Ra's al-Jabal and Dahr al-Wahsh between yesterday evening and this morning.

Further on Clashes

NC2111063389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Nationalist positions in 'Alayh, Ra's al-Jabal, Kayfun, Tariq al-Karamah, and Dahr al-Wahsh came under mortar, rocket, and machinegun fire from the 'Awn gangs yesterday. The firing lasted from approximately 1800 until shortly before midnight.

Reports of Israeli, Resistance Action in South

NC2011180089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] In the resisting south, Israeli occupation forces illuminated the areas of Ra's al-Naqurah, Hula, al-Qantarah, Shaqra, 'Ali al-Tahir, Marj 'Uyun, al-'Ayshiyah, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and Kafr Tibnit last night while Israeli helicopters intensively flew over them. The reasons for this are not known. However, it was reported two glider planes landed in the occupied Arab territories, and the occupation forces were alerted. No other information was available.

Meanwhile, according to reports from the south, an 8-hour clash involving the use of various types of machineguns and rockets took place between resistance fighters and Israeli occupation forces and their agents in the area of 'Alman.

It has been reported that a Katyusha rocket fell two days ago near an Israeli position between the towns of Balat and al-Khiyam. Meanwhile, the town of Qabrikha has come under 155-mm artillery fire from the position held by the occupation forces in Tall 'Abbas. It also has been reported a projectile fell near the Irish UNIFIL contingent in Qabrikha.

The valleys surrounding the al-Shumariyah position also have come under artillery fire from the occupation forces' positions in 'Alman.

Syrians Deployed in Suburb To Halt Clashes

NC2011202889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] REUTER has cited witnesses and security sources as saying around 200 Syrian soldiers armed with rockets and machineguns have been deployed in Beirut's Southern Suburb to halt Amal-Hizballah clashes. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Skirmishes Along Combat Lines

NC2111060089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Intermittent skirmishes involving rocket fire took place along the 'Alayh and Suq al-Gharb combat lines last night.

In another development, two rockets were fired at the Sodeco-Ra's al-Nab' line at about 2200 yesterday.

Dynamite exploded outside [placename indistinct] in the al-Hamra District of West Beirut last night, causing property damage.

Explosive Charge Damages Phalangist Monument

NC2111071389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] An explosive charge placed at the base of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil's [founder and former leader of the Phalangist Party] monument in Bikfayya went off this morning, destroying part of the monument and causing it to fall from its base.

Lebanon's Mu'awwad Hails Corrective Movement

JN1711193689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from His Excellency Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad in which he congratulated Al-Asad and the Syrian people on the anniversary of the Corrective Movement. The president thanked Mu'awwad and wished him success in the tasks he is confronting to achieve peace, security, and national accord in fraternal Lebanon.

The president reassured President Mu'awwad of Syria's full support for him in his efforts to realize this goal, which will lead to fraternal Lebanon's stability and prosperity.

Prime Minister Remarks on Lebanon, Economy

JN2011092889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has affirmed in a comprehensive statement to [Beirut-based] AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI magazine and published in its latest issue, that Syria, which helped Lebanon in the past, will continue to support the march of national reconciliation to achieve its objectives, continue the march of salvation in Lebanon, and liberate the south from Israeli occupation. The prime minister also affirmed that the election of Rene Mu'awwad as president of the Republic of Lebanon has constituted a basic and important step to implement the articles of the national reconciliation document and clear the way for achieving positive results to rebuild the constitutional institutions and expedite the process of political solution in accordance with the al-Ta'if document and the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Al-Zu'bi added: Although Michel 'Awn stands alone against the Lebanese consensus, the reconciliation march, thanks to the Lebanese cooperation, can bypass him, as well as the obstacles he places.

Answering a question, the prime minister said Syria believes in the common Arab action. Syria, he said, always has worked to reinforce and strengthen the objectives of Arab unity and to underline the role of the Arab League, its institutions, and trends to embody the comprehensive Arab cooperation and remove all features of division, polarization, and fragmentation.

On the current economic situation in Syria, the prime minister said Syria's national income has diversified sources. Our economy is not purely an oil economy, like some Arab countries, but neither is it industrial or agricultural. The Syrian economy is a combination of agriculture, industry, oil, and services. He said Syria was among the first countries that were aware of the importance of development planning. He said Syria's experiments and its potential have placed it on the United Nations food map of states that can absorb large agricultural projects to achieve food sufficiency, not only in Syria, but in the region. Al- Zu'bi added that agricultural projects are increasing each year, and that migration from cities to rural areas began in Syria as a result of the increasing economic and social stability in Syria's rural areas.

The prime minister also spoke about oil and gas prospects and drilling and survey operations, saying they open the door wide for investments.

In his statement to AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI, al-Zu'bi said the Corrective Movement has cleared the way before Syria's economic and social development and provided it with a sound internal and external perspective.

People's Assembly Approves 1989 Budget Bill

JN1411074189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—The People's Assembly will resume meetings today within the framework of its current session. The People's Assembly held a meeting yesterday chaired by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, in the presence of a number of ministers.

During this meeting, the assembly approved the draft law of the state budget for fiscal year 1989, as set out in the table of expenditures and revenues. The budget totalled 57 billion Syrian pounds. This is the state's basic annual financial plan to implement the economic plan and achieve its objectives.

Afghanistan

Kabul Reacts Cautiously to Golbuddin's Remarks

BK2111013689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2050 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Afghan Government welcomed Monday [20 November] gave a highly qualified welcome to apparent peace moves by Islamic fundamentalist resistance faction leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar.

"If, and this is a big if, Golbuddin has truly come to the conclusion after 10 years that the only way (forward) is negotiation not confrontation... we will appreciate that move," government spokesman Nabi Amani told reporters.

But the government would take a different view if Mr. Hekmatyar's remarks had been made Saturday "as a result of despair" after THE NEW YORK TIMES published an article outlining U.S. plans to cut aid to the radical leader's Hezb-e Eslami faction of the Pakistan-based resistance alliance, he said.

"Then we regard his move as a political manoeuvre, and (respond to) this we have our political vigilance and maturity," Mr. Amani said. He noted that Mr. Hekmatyar had been the first to oppose a proposal to the United Nations General Assembly that both superpowers cut their arms supplies to the warring Afghan parties. He said Kabul had often reiterated that a peace plan could be accelerated once ceasefire is in force.

President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government has said it is ready to accept a comprehensive cut in arms supplies to the two sides, a move that would force it to come to some agreement or fight to the last bullet, but would not lead to an escalation in the scope of the war.

Shiite Delegation To Negotiate With AIG

BK2111022689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0013 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 21 (AFP)—A delegation from the eight Iran-based Shiite parties in the Afghan guerrilla resistance arrived here Monday [20 November] to open negotiations with the mujahidin's nine-month-old Afghan Interim Government (AIG), an AIG statement said.

The entry of pro-Iranian groups into the guerrillas' provisional government, formed last February after the Soviet retreat from Afghanistan, will be the "major topic of the talks between the two sides," according to the AIG's MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency.

The six-member pro-Iranian delegation is headed by 'Abdul Karim Khalili of the Sazman-e Nasr, or Victory Party, which was founded by the Shiite Hazara tribes and has its stronghold in the area around Kabul, the statement added, without saying when the negotiations would begin.

Three other Shiite delegations are expected in Peshawar, where the AIG is based.

Last month, rebel government President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi took part in a seminar on Afghanistan in Tehran, which allowed him to reopen informal discussions with the pro-Iranian Afghan groups. The pro-Iranian groups walked out of negotiations before the formation of the guerrillas' provisional government on February 23, complaining that the Sunni parties had not given them enough places in the 440-member shoora (assembly) which elected the AIG. The resistance government was finally formed in haste and without the participation of Shiites, which led to immediate criticism of its representativeness.

Recently, the United States and Pakistan, which support the resistance government without recognising it, have encouraged its leaders to "broaden their base" to improve their status in Afghanistan and overseas.

Since the Soviet pullout, the Afghan resistance's military and political activities have been marked by deep divisions which have allowed President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government to hold the country's major cities and retain the diplomatic initiative.

Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Jalalabad

BK2011124489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin Monday fired several dozen rockets on the eastern city of Jalalabad while the Kabul regime's planes bombarded rebel positions around the city, pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said.

The Muslim guerrillas, who are fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, fired 45 rockets on the city from the Samar Kheyl area, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the east, AIP said adding that no information on casualties or damages was available.

On Sunday, the mujahidin rocketed Jalalabad from the western side, it said while on the same day Radio Kabul said that government troops have killed 219 rebels during the past three days of fighting around the city.

The mujahidin have chosen to alternate small-scale attacks on the city from the east, south and west as their four-month old all-out offensive launched in early March had cost them heavily, the agency said.

The guerrillas launched a three-pronged attack against the provincial seat of Nangarhar Wednesday, but government media said that the offensive has been repulsed.

Supplies Arrive in Kabul, Rebel Attacks Continue

BK2111012289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1858 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 20 (AFP)—The Afghan capital received vital food supplies from the Soviet Union Monday [20 November] along a road which had been closed by rebel attacks, as reports said mujahidin attacks were continuing elsewhere in the country.

Diplomats said 1,000 trucks carrying flour, rice and fuel rolled into this city of 1.5 million people along the country's only overland lifeline, the Salang highway leading 400 kilometres (250 miles) north from Kabul to the Soviet Union. The road had been closed for almost 10 days up to Friday because of rebel attacks, but the government here has said it had only been closed twice in that time, for about two days on each occasion.

Fuel prices have soared 600 per cent since November and food stocks cost more than three times last year's winter prices, following a mujahidin threat that the rebels would starve Kabul.

Meanwhile a government spokesman in Kabul said Monday the Afghan resistance guerrillas had attacked a Moslem religious gathering in the town of Ghazni at the weekend, killing seven worshippers. The pilgrims were taking part in an Islamic ceremony at a mausoleum in Ghazni, some 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of here. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

The spokesman also said the Armed Forces had left 219 mujahidin dead or injured in the latest fighting in the country's east.

Rebel attacks on military targets in Nangarhar since Friday had been repulsed and their strongholds hit with artillery and aircraft fire, leaving 219 "extremists" dead or injured, the spokesman said. Two soldiers were killed and four wounded in the fighting around Samar Kheyl, a key military base defending the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad.

The spokesman said the resistance fighters had also launched sporadic attacks along the Kabul-Jalalabad artery, which military officials said last week was open to civilian traffic. The spokesman said troops had discovered six surface-to-surface rockets, used by the rebels to attack cities in operations along the 150-kilometre (90-mile) highway.

'Fierce Fighting' at Samar Kheyl

BK2111025689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fierce fighting is raging between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces for the control of three strategically important positions in the Samar Kheyl hills, about 12 km from Jalalabad. The Afghan Interim Government news agency, MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN says the mujahidin have pushed back Kabul forces from the newly established security posts in the area. Most of the Kabul regime troops fled without putting up any resistance. The news agency adds that fighting continuse around the fourth post and that the mujahidin are making advances.

Kabul Army Units Reportedly Kill 'Ringleader'

LD1911153989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Paktia Province carried out mopping up operations yesterday in some parts of the province. According to a report by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section, as a result of these mopping up operations an active ringleader of Golbuddin group, Mudir Muhammad Asef was killed.

India

India Opposes UN Resolution on Nuclear-Free Zone

BK1111081989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] India has opposed a resolution that came up in the political committee of the United Nations which endorsed the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia. Opposing the resolution, Mr Rakesh Sood of India said security could not be achieved through the creation of nuclear weapon-free regional zones. He pointed out that regional zones serve to legitimize the possession of nuclear weapons by a few states outside those zones. He also drew the attention to the presence of naval nuclear weapons in the Indian Ocean which goes against a South Asian nuclear weapons-free zone. Mr Sood said India is against the resolution as it was presented in a ritual fashion and ran against the consensus spirit of the General Assembly special session on disarmament.

The resolution was also opposed by Bhutan and Mauritius. Thirty members, including the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, France, and Cuba, abstained. The resolution was, however, adopted by the political committee and will now come up before the General Assembly.

Bombings, Violence Kill 10 as Elections Near

BK2011131889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—At least 10 people have been killed, nine of them in bomb blasts in southern Andhra Pradesh State, and at least 20 others injured countrywide in pre-election violence in the past 24 hours.

Nine people died in two separate bomb blasts late Sunday in the opposition-ruled state, five of them at the home of a ruling Congress (I) candidate in Cuddapah District. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said the

explosives were illegally stored homemade-made bombs and that they exploded accidentally Sunday, PTI said.

Four others were killed in a similar explosion in the home of an activist of the Telugu Desam Party which rules Andhra Pradesh, PTI said.

Police have stepped up operations to seize homemade bombs from the violence-prone state, which goes to the polls on November 22.

In other incidents unknown killers murdered an activist of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party or BJP) in eastern Bihar State's notorious Dhanbad constituency Sunday, PTI said. The area's BJP candidate, Sukhdeo Singh, was injured in the attack, PTI added.

Seven people were injured in an election campaign brawl broken up by cane-wielding policemen in western Gujarat State, PTI said. Four of the injured were policemen who tried to stop a fight which erupted after supporters of an unnamed opposition party drove a motor-scooter procession into a Congress (I) rally in Baroda District's Padra County, PTI said.

In an unusual incident police and paramilitary home guards in northern Kanpur clashed leaving three critically injured and another nine hurt in an argument over election duty arangements. Police baton-charged the home guards, who then stoned buses and trucks requisition for the polls, PTI reported.

Elections to 524 parliamentary constituencies are staggered over three days—November 22, 24 and 26.

State 'Revolt' Clouds Opposition's Challenge

BK1811091089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 18 Nov 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 18 (AFP)—A ministerial revolt in an opposition-governed Indian state has cast a shadow on the opposition's challenge to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in cliff-hanging parliamentary elections four days away.

Leading newspapers warned Saturday that the resignations by four ministers protesting the "bossism" of Haryana State Chief Minister Devi Lal and his elder son Om Prakash Chautala would affect the opposition's prospects nationwide.

The developments "cannot but have an impact on the fortunes of the Janata Dal (People's Party) and one of its principal leaders, Mr. Devi Lal," the pro-opposition INDIAN EXPRESS said in an editorial. "And the impact may not be confined to Haryana," which holds 10 out of the 525 seats to be contested in the national polls, it warned.

Three Haryana ministers quit Mr. Lal's cabinet Thursday and were followed the next day by another colleague and two Janata Dal legislators in the largely agrarian state. The centrist Dal governs Haryana, which borders New Delhi.

The dissidents accused Mr. Lal and Mr. Chautala, who is also the chief of the Haryana chapter of the Janata Dal, of despotism and corruption and accused the duo of treating the tiny state as a family fiefdom. They also alleged that the dominant Hindu Jat community, to which Mr. Lal belongs, was discriminating against Haryana's non-Jats. The Jats are a farming community with a warrior tradition.

The surprise developments sent shock waves through the near-united opposition camp, of which the 75-year-old Mr. Lal has emerged as a kingmaker since routing Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in state elections in June 1987.

Mr. Lal, who is known to have prime ministerial ambitions, is seeking to enter national Parliament in the November 22-24-26 ballot by contesting from three constituencies in as many states.

The resignations, which Mr. Lal has dismissed as a conspiracy hatched by three federal ministers including archrival Bhajan Lal, led the Congress (I) to claim Friday that they foreshadowed the Janatal Dal's doom. The Dal is the leading constituent of the five-party National Front, the main opposition alliance seeking to end Mr. Gandhi's scandal-marred rule with an aggressive campaign in which Mr. Devi Lal has played a key role.

The resignations are "the first step towards an imminent and inevitable collapse of the Janata Dal" and showed that it was "casteist" and "hostile to weaker sections (of the society)," the Congress (I) charged.

Mr. Bhajan Lal, the federal agriculture minister and a former Haryana chief minister, was reported Friday as claiming that the state government would fall by Wednesday, the first day of parliamentary polls.

THE TRIBUNE newspaper, known for its Haryana coverage, said the revolt "may well have repercussions at the national level in the coming elections" and reported intense disaffection in the lower ranks of the Dal and its ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in some parts of the state.

The HINDUSTAN TIMES described the Haryana developments as "a damning indictment" of Mr. Devi Lal's stewardship, while the pro-Congress (I) NATIONAL HERALD claimed that a mass revolt was brewing in the state's Janata Dal.

Virtually all newspapers, including those sympathetic to the opposition, blamed Mr. Lal's two politically-ambitious but warring sons—Mr. Chautala and the younger Ranjit Singh—for the crisis.

Mr. Lal is said to prefer Mr. Chautala and to be grooming him for the chief minister's job if he decides to move to the centre stage of national politics. Mr. Chautala and Mr. Ranjit Singh are known to lead rival factions in the Haryana Janata Dal and have been often charged with promoting favourites in the bureaucracy, to the chagrin of career-minded officers.

Mool Chand Jain, the chairman of Haryana Planning Board, quit earlier this year protesting the "overbearing attitude" of the two sons, while three Janata Dal leaders in Haryana have joined the Congress (I) in recent months.

More than 300,000 government employees campaigning for higher wages for nearly a year have also alleged attacks by the "green brigades", a Dal force of young supporters branded by critics a personal army of Mr. Chautala.

Said THE TRIBUNE: "Even Mr. Ranjit Singh... is said to be so desperate that he may not be averse to joining the Congress (I)."

THE TIMES OF INDIA reported that the ministerial resignations had made Haryana's Congress (I) buoyant and "the mood in the state Congress camp is not exactly that of a party which is supposed to lose heavily."

Muslim Leader Defects to Gandhi's Opposition

BK2011135489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—A key Muslim leader in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party resigned Monday and joined the opposition Janata Dal (People's Party) in protest at last month's Hindu-Muslim riots.

Mohammad Kasim, 52, quit in a surprise move just before crucial general elections to 524 parliamentary seats starting Wednesday. "I am very happy to leave the Congress (I) as it has abandonned all that it stood for," Mr. Kasim said at a press conference. The veteran politician, who ran an official party minority cell that garners Muslim support for the Congress (I) as well as looking after the interests of other minorities, lashed out at the party accusing it of using the police to connive in bloody Hindu-Muslim riots across India. Mr. Kasim, a politician from eastern Bihar State, joined the Congress (I) in 1979 and was believed to be in line for nomination to the Rajya Sabha, Parliament's upper house.

"I could not sit back and see what was happening in Bihar," he said after the press conference at the Janata Dal headquarters. Over 250 people, most reportedly Muslims, have died in bloody riots that flared in Bihar State last month following a Hindu plan to build a temple at a site sacred to Muslims.

"I have also been warning the Congress (I) for the last two months of Hindu-Muslim riots in Madhya Pradesh, but no one listened to me," Mr. Kasim said, referring to communal violence in at least t
state. "This has hurt us (Muslim
joined the party I had hoped it
harmony in the country," he sai

Mr. Kasim later told reporters t
failed to fulfill its promise to
development projects for minor

The Congress (I) has traditionall
the country's Muslim minority
million.

A Janata Dal spokesman als
Muslim activist to reporters say
National Students' Union of Ind
the Congress (I), and had resign

Observers called Mr. Kasim's de
the Dal which suffered a setback
ministers in opposition-ruled Ha
ana's Chief Minister Devi Lal ha
light of the Dal.

Mr. Kasim's resignation comes
India's Muslim High Priest S
announced his support for the D
315 of the seats in the Novemb
The Congress (I) has sent emissa
hope of changing his stand.

wo regions of the central
ns) very much as when I
would bring communal
id.

he Congress (I) had also
release a package of 15
rities.

ly enjoyed the support of
who number some 100

o introduced another
ying he belonged to the
ia, which is affiliated to
ed to join the Dal.

efection a "success" for
last weekend when four
rayana State quit. Hary-
s emerged as the leading

almost a fortnight after
yed Abdullah Bukhari
al which is standing for
er 22, 24 and 26 polls.
ries to the priest in the

BBC: Gandhi To Lose 'Absolu
ute Majority'

*BK2111034989 London BBC Wo
0215 GMT 21 Nov 89*
rld Service in English

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Campaigning for the Indi
ended in most states and the si
minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is lik
majority. Our Delhi corresponde
that the high-powered election ca
party, Congress-I, seems to hav
voters' attitudes.

an general election has
ns are that the prime
ely to lose his absolute
t, Mark Tully, reports
npaign of Mr Gandhi's
e done little to affect

[Begin Tully recording] Political
diplomats, and businessmen all
Rajiv Gandhi is in deep difficu
talked to and some Congress
headquarters also admit privately
bleak. Reports of the mood in D
poor showing in the latest opini
spread to the constituencies in th
central states, which might w
workers. Everyone I have spoken
those states comments on a stron
Gandhi. There are also reports
important states politically, Utta
the low-key campaign of the oppos
prime ministership, Vishwanath P
dividends. The expensive Congr
dependent on modern media tech

scientists, journalists,
seem to believe that
lties. Officials I have
nen at the campaign
that the prospects are
lhi and of the party's
on poll are bound to
crucial northern and
ll demoralize party
o who has traveled in
feeling against Rajiv
hat in the two most
Pradesh and Bihar,
ition candidate for the
ratap Singh, is paying
ess publicity heavily
niques and personally

supervised by the prime minister does not appear to have influenced the electorate. Congress was also hoping that events to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi would rally the country behind the prime minister. But the events appear to have had little impact.

The biggest setback for the Congress has been the failure of the prime minister's own campaigning. Most of his meetings have been poorly attended and the crowds have been unenthusiastic. The one ray of hope for the Congress is the south where they are likely to improve their position. But that will not compensate for the losses they are expected to suffer in northern and central India. [end recording]

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Military Graduation Address

LD2011150489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at a ceremony at the Sixth Staff and Command Course at Imam Hoseyn University; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The most significant part of my remarks today, focus, in the first place on the fact that defense is part of the identity of an animated nation. Any nation which fails to defend itself is not alive. The same goes for any nation which does not consider self-defense, hence which does not prepare itself. [passage omitted]

May God save us from the day when this nation and His chosen ones remain heedless in the face of evil assaults waged by global arrogance at the head of which is America. The revolution has been a cause of grudge and malice for the world's arrogant and bullying powers. It has been so, is so, and will remain so. That which will never end is the grudge that arrogance bears against us. It may be that one day they may realize that it is to no avail, and put a stop to their assaults. It may be that the might of the Islamic Republic may induce many around the world to feign friendship and solidarity. Such things are possible. But it is not possible to become free of the enmity of arrogance and of the satanic individuals who have strayed from the path of humanity, of the revolution.

This exists, and as long as such enmity exists, so do threats. As long as threats exist, one should think about defense and defensive preparedness.

This is one of the malicious propoganda ploys used by our enemies: Whenever we talk about the defense of our revolution, system, and nation, the propoganda forces become active, saying: Yes they are warmongers. You are the warmongers who have created war among all human beings. You are the warmongers who for the sake of your own interests have remained silent and for many years set the fire of imposed war upon many nations. We are not warmongers. We seek defense. We are alive. We are alert. We will not remain heedless of the great and valuable asset which is in our possession, that is, our revolution, Islam, and our system. We will defend them. This is not warmongering. This is our policy.

All stratas of the nation, specifically the armed forces, should bear in mind that the defense-readiness and alacrity should last for ever, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] enjoys a special position among the nation, the soldiers, and defenders of the revolution. [passage omitted]

There are two or three major points which I have to make. The first is that the rumors and whispers about dissolving one of the two organizations—the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps—in favor of the other are finished. They were not correct from the start either. Our dear imam repeatedly said that the Guards Corps and the Armed Forces both exist, should remain, and should be fortified. Some people were spreading rumors here and there. We have reiterated this and, God willing, we will go on pursuing the course of action whereby both organizations should remain as powerful as ever.

Today I am glad that we are able to utilize these two organizations in the service of the Islamic system and Islamic values.

We have said and, God willing, we will practice what we preach in our programs and code of conduct, that the main mission of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is the armed defense of the revolution and the Islamic Republic system.

That is the main mission of the Guards Corps, as the main mission of the Armed Forces is the defense of the country's borders. Of course, if there is large-scale invasion of the borders, such as in the past 8 years, the Guards Corps would rush to the borders with everything at its disposal and perform its duty, that is defending the revolution and safeguarding the system. [passage omitted]

We do not want war, we do not welcome it; but we consider it necessary to maintain absolute readiness when certain notions and temptations threatens us. That obliges us never to forget the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and especially the gigantic mobilization organization.

I pray to God to grant us all success. I once again congratulate all of you. I hope that the holy spirit of our esteemed imam is satisfied with you all, that every day you come closer to attaining the goals of that great man. God keep you. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

RESALAT on Implications of U.S. 'Terrorism'

NC1611172489 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Nov 89 p 1

[Akbar Navavi editorial: "A New Lease of Life to U.S. Government-Sponsored Terrorism"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Government's decision to permit its federal police force, the FBI, to abduct individuals accused by the U.S. courts of attacks on U.S. citizens, has laid the foundations for a new phase in government-sponsored terrorism—which was created along with espionage organizations in the world, in particular the CIA. This decision has the support of the U.S. legislators and has thus initiated a new era of ruthlessness against free peoples all over the world.

This decision was based on certain political and psychological issues, the most salient being the CIA's and Bush administration's failure to resolve the hostage crisis in Lebanon. Since the execution of Colonel Higgins, the Bush administration has been under intense psychological pressure. The symptoms of this pressure are clearly evident in the various positions adopted consecutively by Bush for resuming ties with Iran, in order to resolve the hostage issue. It does not appear that this issue is of minor importance to the Bush administration. [passage omitted]

If the U.S. Government wants to protect the lives of its citizens abroad, the Lebanese groups should also have the right to take hostages for their own defense. At present, the U.S. leadership seems to be faced with an overt internal contradiction. On the one hand, it accuses the agents of Lebanese groupings of "terrorism." On the other, it decides to take similar actions itself.

The extent of the U.S. Government's success in applying such pressure depends on international sensitivity to violation of individual and collective freedoms of all human beings. If the international community treats this inhuman decision with indifference and does not take a principled humanitarian position, it will not only have signed the warrant for the insecurity of the international community, but will also have openly given the seal of approval to all acts of terrorism which flout the fundamental and accepted human rights.

President Calls for Expanded Political Ties

LD1911153389 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today stressed the need for expansion of Iran's political, economic and cultural ties with regional countries. Stability and security in the region would be possible only through mutual cooperation, he told Iran's ambassadors to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, here on a home visit.

The regional countries in their gatherings should not adopt positions which may create a "dark spot" in the improving trend of relations and hurt the national sentiments of the Iranian people, he warned.

The president said Iran has always been after regional tranquility, and that practical solutions for maintaining a lasting security in the region exist in the region not outside it.

During the meeting Muhammad 'Ali Hadi and Hoseyn Sadeqi briefed the president on the latest developments in the countries of their assignment.

Velayati on 'Policy of Equality, Balance' in Gulf

LD2011120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] An international Persian Gulf conference, attended by 400 philosophers, scientists, experts, some officials from Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and others involved in Persian Gulf affairs, opened at the Political and International Studies Bureau [place not identified] today.

Guests from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada, the United States, Britain, the USSR, Japan, China, Germany [as heard], the Philippines, France, Algeria, Finland, Switzerland, India, Syria, Turkey, and Burkina Faso attended. Dr Velayati, the foreign minister; Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahiyan, the intelligence minister; Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri, adviser to the leader [Khamene'i]; and Dr Shahabi, deputy director of research of the Political Studies Bureau—in that order—spoke about the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf.

Recounting past events in the Persian Gulf, Foreign Minister Velayati said: From the viewpoint of Western political and military analysts, the northwestern area of the Indian Ocean, which covers the Persian Gulf, southern Asia, and the Horn of Africa, is an important strategic region.

Iran follows a policy of equality and balance in its dealings with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf region. Our common interests with our neighbors in the south entail political stability and preventing interference by others, especially the big powers. Iran covets no other country, including its neighbors in the south, and wishes to see tension removed from the region. At the same time it calls on other countries in the region not to permit big powers to pursue their age-old policy of creating terror and fear among neighboring countries. Iran believes that the security of the Persian Gulf should be maintained by the sons of this region, and that no foreigner should be permitted to interfere in this sensitive region.

Commercial Cooperation With Oman To Expand

LD1611202289 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran and Oman intend to expand their commercial cooperation, and implement joint economic projects, Heavy Industries Minister Hadi

Nejad-Hoseyniyan announced today, on his his return from a two-day visit to Muscat.

While in Muscat, Hoseyniyan briefed Oman on the industrial capabilities of the Islamic Republic, and said Iranian industries are ready to produce goods needed by Oman.

Hoseyniyan was in Oman at the head of an economic delegation, to inaugurate Iran's pavilion at the Muscat International Trade Fair which opened Tuesday. He said he discussed political and regional issues with Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn-al-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah and Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Ibn-'Abdallah al-Ghazali.

Sixty Iranian companies from the public and private sector are displaying their products at the Iranian pavilion which is the largest among the foreign participants.

KEYHAN Condemns Omani 'Illogical' Move

NC1911143289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Nov 89 p 18

[A. Faraz commentary: "Let Us Answer the Hypocrisy of Advocators of Friendship With Revolutionary Diplomacy"]

[Excerpts] "The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the friendly Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region to be more farsighted so that in the event of Iraq's increased motivation toward expansionism, at least these countries will not fall into the trap of this expansionism." This is taken from a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry in response to the concluding declaration of the meeting in Muscat of the Arab information ministers of the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

It is now being felt that the lack of a firm approach to the adoption of such positions has tainted the record of those who profess neutrality and arbitration and has boosted the audacity of Iraq and its supporters as they continue to fabricate pretexts and create obstacles and impediments to the full implementation of Resolution 598.

It should be made clear that—since there is no justification for the participation of some countries claiming to be friends in the issuing of such an antagonistic declaration—we should seek its origin in former similar cases. No excuses proffered by any of the signatories who participated in the concluding session of the meeting of information ministers of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf can be accepted, even if the signatories were subjected to duress and difficult circumstances by Iraq and Saudi Arabia to make them behave thus.

If not one of them realizes the significance of these remarks, at least the littoral Arab countries of the southern Persian Gulf should fully comprehend that they should not choose a path besmirched by the abrogation of an accredited and solid official document registered with the United Nations. When the implications of this become clear, they will perceive now, more than ever, that every country will bestow on itself the right to revive its former claims to the territory of independent countries. [passage omitted]

It is still not clear how one of the regional countries which profess to be friendly with Iran and have even acted as mediators in certain political moves has permitted a statement to be issued in its capital which overtly places a question mark over Iran's territorial integrity and amounts to interference in the internal affairs of the country. More than the others the Omani Government must answer this question and say what is meant by these moves made at a time when UN emissary Eliasson is in the vicinity in order to achieve a breakthrough in the peace talks stalemate .

Has our Foreign Ministry received the answers to these questions yet? Only a month has elapsed since the new Omani envoy arrived in Tehran. Exchanges have taken place between the two countries and very shortly the joint commission of the two countries is scheduled to meet for its second annual session in Tehran.

Such progress in bilateral ties and reports on the mediation efforts on the part of the Omani shaykhdom do not seem to be in line with what took place in Muscat last week. It would be appropriate if our country's formulators of foreign policy displayed an appropriate reaction to this illogical move by Oman, and conveyed their displeasure at what has occurred.

They should inform all those countries, such as Kuwait, which also recently professed peace and friendship, that such despicable acts on the part of governments, regardless of the excuses and pretexts they were based on, are intolerable for our nation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Algiers Accord

LD2011153289 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday stressed that the 1975 Algiers Accord is a valid treaty which has undergone all its legal procedures in the past no matter if Iraqi Foreign Minister (Tariq 'Aziz) accepts it or not.

Velayati who was speaking at a press conference at Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) said in order to break the stalemate in the Iraqi-Iran peace talks, Iran proposed a positive initiative—simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory and exchange of POWs.

But, he added, the Iraqi foreign minister's response to the proposal was, "repetition of previous baseless statements, proving that this regime (Iraq) is not bound to international rules and regulations."

He further noted that the 1975 Algiers Accord was a comprehensive territorial and good neighborly treaty which had been ratified by the then parliaments and signed by the then foreign ministers of the two countries.

The accord, V
the United N/elayati added, had also been registered at documents inlations and published as part of the UN minister or o 1986. "Statements by the Iraqi foreign difference, thather any other country would make no anything fromat is it would neither add to or take away foreign minista its (the Algiers Accord) credibility," the er said.

On the stalled deadlock in thd peace talks, Velayati said the present created by thne negotiations were due to the obstacles towards the iss Iraqi regime and its negative attitude sue.

On the release alongside Iraq of Egyptian prisoners of war who fought other countrie, Velayati said, "the release of POWs from Islamic Repubes depends on their stance towards the (from Sudan), vlic. The release of some non-Iraqi POWs the peoples of was an indication of our good-will towards those countries."

"We have no p its people are roblem with the Egyptian nation because always rendere Muslims and well-cultured who have civilization aned valuable services to Islam, the Islamic ness towards thd Islamic struggles. However, our mild- lic's kindness the POWs stems from the Islamic Repub- owards the nations."

Asked if a new New York next round of peace talks would be held in with the secretat month, he said Iran was ready for talks UN chief deem ry general or tripartite negotiations, if the ed so.

In reply to a qu estion by a foreign reporter on Iran-India relations, Vela yati said, "relations between Iran and India have alw ays been particularly sincere due to cultural and histor rical common interests."

Bilateral scient ific, technical, economic, cultural and mutual cooperat ation in international organizations and the non-aligned movement were also indications of this sincerity, the fo reign minister said.

"Bilateral ties and historical bonds between the two nations and thei ir sublime common values are potentials for further exp ansion of bilateral cooperation," noted Velayati.

UN Represent ative Comments on Resolution 598

LD1711210989 17 Nov 89 *Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT*

[Text] Tehran, N Nov. 17, IRNA—"The United Nations is as eager as Iran to get away from this unhealthy no-war no-peace situati on, and that Resolution 598 is the road map which shou ld be followed in this regard," says UN special envoy Jan Eliasson here Thursday [16 November] nigh t.

In an interview with IRNA Thursday night Eliasson who left Tehran Frid ay [17 November] morning at the end of 17-day visit to Iran and Iraq said, "I have now a very clear picture of the positions of the two sides, and I have also presented so ome ideas in the course of trip."

More on the outcome of his shuttle diplomacy and talks with Iranian and Iraqi officials, he said that both Iran and Iraq have given him clear indications of their positions and "not surprisingly their positions in some respect are wide apart."

The UN officials stressed, "there is only one way to go, namely, to precede with implementation of the resolution."

Eliasson however, declined to elaborate on deails of his talks with Iranian and Iraqi officials repeatedly stating that it is the United Nations secretary general who should first be informed on the outcome of his visits.

On report of the UN chief to the Security Council in September which summed up the trend of peace talks, he said that it proposed ways to take the resolution forward and made suggestions which should seriously be taken into consideration.

"We need to make specific progress on specific points among them withdrawal of forces and exchange of pows, but at the same time make sure we preserve the character of the revolution as an integrated whole," he told IRNA.

Eliasson denied a Wednesday [15 November] report by Iraqi weekly 'ALIF-BA' which quoted a source close to him as having said that some progress had been made in the talks. He told IRNA that neither he nor members of his delegation had made such statements.

More on the Resolution 598 he said that it speaks for itself adding that all its articles should be implemented. "The resolution has been unanimously adopted by the Security Council and it is to be followed," he stressed.

The UN envoy added that during his visits to Iranian and Iraqi capitals he conveyed messages from UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to the presidents of the two countries, whom he met first upon arrival in Tehran and Baghdad. "It was essential to meet the representatives of the two nations at the highest level in order to discuss how we are going to proceed to the direction of peace."

Eliasson refused to comment on the Iranian proposal for immediate and simultaneous repatriation of POWs and troop withdrawal to internationally-recognized borders. He was briefed about these points in the last round of talks with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He termed the visit to the area as "very interesting" adding that it provided him with the opportunity to work "very intensely and to meet the leadership directly in the two capitals." "I hope this would lead to progress in the implementation of the rsolution in spite of the difficulties which I do not deny," Eliaisson told IRNA.

He said that in addition to officials of the two countries he had also met with some people in both countries in order to get some direct impressions of people's desire for peace which he said, "has been so evident during the trip."

"I have received very vivid impressions on what the war has done and the need to move away from this situation and to really start the progress on social and economic reconstruction which I am sure is what the two people and the two governments desire."

Expressing the hope that the process of peace talks would be revived, he said that it will be possible for the secretary general to meet with the foreign ministers of the two countries in the near future.

"We hope that such meeting could take place before the end of the year, around the middle of December, although the date has not absolutely been confirmed yet."

TEHRAN TIMES Urges UN Chief To Mediate

LD2111074289 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21 IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Tuesday urged the United Nation's chief to pinpoint the party that has caused his special envoy Jan Eliasson's trip to the Persian Gulf region to end in failure.

Eliasson's 17-day shuttle between Tehran and Baghdad which ended last week aimed at getting the stalled peace talks off the ground, made no significant progress mainly because of the Iraqi stubbornness over illogical positions. Iraq rejects the U.N. registered 1975 accord determining its borders with Iran and illogically demands release of POWs prior to the implementation of Resolution 598 on ceasefire between the two countries.

But Iran insists on the full and gradual execution of the resolution in order of its articles noting that the exchange of POWs is in its second article. It said the U.N. chief Perez de Cuellar "has a moral as well as international responsibility to clarify the things as they are for the world's public opinion". "He should determine for the world's people who is violating Resolution 598 and which party is doing everything to help its implementation."

The editorial concluded "De Cuellar should not expect any such announcement from the Security Council" believing "the body's five permanent members are mainly concerned with their own political interests rather than the global peace."

Petrochemical Complex To Open 'Next Year'

LD2011175889 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Nov. 20, IRNA—The first phase of the giant petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni Port is to start operation with a capacity of 1.5 millon tons of liquid gas next year, the oil minister announced Monday.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh added that raw materials needed by the unit would be prepared by the Ahvaz-800 gas and liquid gas plant which became operational today. The minister said the surplus productions of the unit would be exported abroad.

The petrochemical complex was set up with Japanese collaboration in 1971 but with the start of the Iraqi aggression on September 22, 1981, Japanese experts left Iran, leaving the project incomplete. Following the ceasefire which stopped the Iraqi war on August 20, 1988, Tehran resumed talks with a reluctant Tokyo on completion of the project. Finally, Japan officially announced its withdrawal a few months ago on grounds that it was no longer economical. However, Iran is determined to complete the project by relying on its own experts, and foreign expertise where necessary.

Deputy Petroleum Minister on Gas Production

NC1211070889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Under the country's first development plan, 100 additional cities, including some in Kordestan Province, will receive gas and 2 million more families will be able to use the gas distribution plan. This was stated by Mr Karachiyan, deputy petroleum minister and managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company, in an interview with our correspondent. Speaking about the gas distribution programs in the country, he said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Karachiyan, as deputy petroleum minister for gas affairs and managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company, please tell us about the quantity of gas produced and used in the country now.

[Karachiyan] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. We are producing about 37 million cubic meters of gas. Part of this must be refined. We have consumers for these 37 million cubic meters and the total amount of gas is used in autumn. We will face some shortages when the cold weather comes. However, our colleagues are doing their best. The Kangan refinery is almost ready to begin production. We hope that with the beginning of operations at the Kangan refinery in late autumn or early winter, we will be able to overcome the problems of this year's winter and also start, God willing, exporting gas to the Soviet Union in early 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990].

[Correspondent] Mr Karachiyan, what additions will be made to the national gas distribution network during the 5-year plan?

[Karachiyan] We should add another 100 cities to the 100 cities that we are trying to include in the network. In other words, about 200 large and small cities should be included in this network during the 5-year plan. We should build a pipeline about 3,000 km long. One of the important areas this pipeline will pass through will be the deprived area of Kordestan. We should go as far as Sanandaj. The network will extend from Rasht to Khangiran so that we can have access, when necessary, to two

gas resources. About 1.2 million more branches, or about 2 million more families, will, God willing, receive gas during the 5-year plan. [end recording]

TEHRAN TIMES on Next OPEC Meeting

NC1511170189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Should Steer Away From Politics"]

[Text] Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will gather on November 25 in Geneva to discuss various issues related to the international oil market and the future strategy of the cartel. Meanwhile members of the Arab Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) too have scheduled a meeting for November 23 in Geneva to exchange views on the related issues prior to the OPEC meet.

Among the issues topping the agenda of the AOPEC are the current state of the oil market, crude prices and quotas for member countries.

The discussions in AOPEC can certainly contribute the bringing the views of various factions of OPEC closer to each other, and thus, can ensure the implementation of the decisions reached in the meeting. Coordination between AOPEC and OPEC is then a must.

Deliberations over a theory of having the OPEC to steer away from politics and become a truly economic-oriented cartel that can take care of the interests of each and every member should perhaps be one of the most urgent and fundamental subjects to be tackled by OPEC.

OPEC is just coming out, victoriously, of a problem that had plagued the cartel for a long time namely the quota for Iran and Iraq. The momentum generated after the resolution of this apparenly difficult problem should now be exploited in the best of ways to secure the interests of the member countries.

In this regard the experience gained during the OPEC's 84th meeting can be very useful. In that meet, the first to be convened after Iran-Iraq ceasefire, the organization agreed to increase its total output and accepted the Iraqi demand for equal quota with Iran. This meant that two of the most nagging problems facing the organization at that juncture were resolved. This curbed further damage to the oil market and to prices, and that threatened the interests of all member countries.

OPEC needs to take full advantage of several leverages at its disposal to be able to defend the $18 price level. First and foremost efforts should be made to repeat the gains of the 1989 summit in London when non-OPEC countries participated in it. The OPEC should seriously consider arrangements for regular meetings with other oil producers, so that a unified and coherent strategy can be worked out.

A second important activity is the footing of a frequent meeting betwen OPEC Aand AOPEC members. This can be an avenue for converging the views of the two factions of OPEC.

All member countries must then do their utmost to make sure that the November meet will be a totally economic, non-political one. To ensure this objective a meeting may be necessary among the concerned parties alongside the upcoming conference. Political views however should not be superimposed on economic considerations, the very bone and prime target of an international oil cartel.

Velayati Receives Message From Turkey's Ozal

LD1911172189 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—Turkish Ambassador Omer Akbel met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today, and submitted a message from President Turgut Ozal for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Velayati congratulated President Ozal's election to the highest office in Turkey, and also wished success for new Premier Yildirim Akbulut. Velayati referred to the common viewpoints the two neighbours share in cultural, religious and historical fields, and called for expansion of bilateral relations.

Earlier in the day, the Iranian foreign minister received Bahrain's Charge d'Affaires Yaqub Yusuf 'Abdallah, who submitted a message from Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammed Ibn-Mubarak Ibn-Hamad al-Khalifah on expansion of Tehran-Manama ties.

Commentary on Policies of New Turkish President

NC1511140589 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary: "The Swearing In of Turgut Ozal as Turkey's New President"]

[Text] Foremer Prime Minister Turgut Ozal was sworn in as the eighth president of Turkey during a ceremony held in the Turkish parliament last Thursday. Ozal traveled to the presidential palace and took over his responsibilities from the outgoing president, General Kenan Evren.

Judging by Turgut Ozal's first disclosures as a president, he will slowly make changes in a number of policies in his secular country with a view to realize the promises he made in connection with turning Turkey into one of Europe's influential countries and having it become an EEC member. However, in addition to describing Turkey's industrial and agricultural products as unsatisfactory, the EEC has also accused that country of violating human rights. Furthermore, the EEC has rejected Turkey's wish to become an EEC member.

Turgut Ozal has now claimed that harmony has been established between the concept of secular system in Turkey and the principle of freedom of religion and faith. He also claimed that his country's objective is to achieve progress in the economic and social fields and in democracy.

Ozal, who is a Muslim and a hajji and who has been elected as Turkey's president, attended this week's Friday prayers in Ankara.

Regarding the question of banning students who wear Islamic veils from attending Turkish universities, Ozal believes that the use of the Islamic veil is a part of the Islamic faith and that it should not be opposed. As prime minister, Ozal pointed to the need to change Articles 141, 142, and 163 of the Turkish Constitution in order to remove a number of political restrictions that were imposed on Muslims and supporters of other ideologies. The said articles restricted the activities of Muslims and Communists in Turkey. Ozal's effort to create a free political atmosphere has come when not only the Communists in Turkey but also the leading figures of communist ideology in the world have moved to reconsider the basic principles of their objectives. Ozal's initiative will be probably welcomed by the Muslims in Turkey, who make up 98 percent, the majority, of the population there.

Regarding the question of the Kurds, who have not yet been officially recognized in Turkey, Ozal said he wishes to pursue a peaceful policy on the matter. On the same issue, Ozal asserted that Turkey's population is composed of people from various nationalities who were part of the Ottoman Empire. He said: Let us talk about a nation instead of a Turkish race.

These disclosures have been made while a relatively wide-ranging armed struggle has been continuing in Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions since 1984, a struggle in which more than 2,000 Kurds and military personnel have been killed.

President Ozal has appointed Yildirim Akbulut as Turkey's new prime minister. Akbulut is currently faced with social and economic problems. He has to resolve these problems if he wants his party's government, that is, the Motherland Party Administration, to remain in power after the general elections in 1992. Meanwhile, the failure to resolve economic problems in Turkey has been used as propaganda by strong forces opposed to Ozal, such as the True Path Party and the Social Democratic Populist Party.

Turkey is now faced with a remarkable deficit in its budget. During his term of office as prime minister, Ozal was forced to sell state bonds and the shares of factories in order to lower the budget deficit. According to statistics in Turkey, the budget deficit of that country will exceed $3 billion. Meanwhile, economic experts believe that the measures put into effect by the Ozal government to reduce the budget deficit, which has even prompted the sale of state-owned factories to foreign companies, have increased the inflation rate. Inflation has increased by 15 percent since 1989 to reach 80 percent in 1989.

Nevertheless, Turkey's future economic and social situation looks promising. Furthermore, as also pointed out by Turgut Ozal, it is hoped that Turkey will have auspicious relations with its neighbors, including Iran, in the future.

Iranian Students Reportedly Tortured in Turkey

LD2111115789 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—The Turkish security officers recently arrested and tortured a group of Iranian students studying at Ankara universities, reported the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Tuesday [21 November]. The paper said that the Turkish security officers recently ransacked apartments of the students at night arresting a number of them under the pretext of being involved in a recent bomb explosion in car of a Saudi diplomat in Ankara which injured the diplomat.

A group of the students have been released and a number are still in detention. Reports form Turkey said that the students have been tortured physically and psychologically by the Turkish security forces. Condition of one of the students who was ill at time of the arrest deteriorated due to inhuman treatment during detention, said the reports.

One of the students was reportedly beaten for two days for having a book of Hafez, the famous 14th century famous Iranian poet, in his house, mistaken by Turkish officers for a treatise of the late Imam Khomeyni.

Another student who has lost his right hand in a car accident at the age of seven, was beaten for two hours while blindfolded and was insulted for being a handicapped. The officers accused him of having lost his hand in Lebanon and threatened to cut off his other hand. After two days of torture he finally convinced the officers that he had lost his hand in a car accident.

Another student was demanded by the officers to spit at Imam Khomeyni's picture if he was not a hezbollah. Refusing the demand he was severely beaten.

The students are ordered to keep silent about their mistreatment in prison and were threatened that any mention of the ordeal will land them in detention again and that this time they would not manage to leave the prison in proper shape.

Most of the students who were arrested were not active Muslim students.

Student Protests at Ankara University Noted

NC1411101589 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Hundreds of Muslim students at Ankara University organized a demonstration today to protest against

the officials who kept students who wore the Islamic veil from attending universities . IRNA has reported that the students gathered in the center of Ankara and demanded that Muslim students be allowed to wear the Islamic veil freely in Turkish universities. Speaking at the demonstration, Muslim women said that the Islamic veil has its basis in Islamic women's faith and Islamic struggle and that they regard the Islamic veil as a requirement of their faith.

It is common knowledge that this demonstration was the third of its kind organized by the Muslim students of the Turkish universities in connection with the move made by the officials in Turkey to keep veiled Muslim female students out of the universities during the past month.

W. Azerbaijan, Turkish Officials Discuss Border

NC2011081489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Border issues affecting the West Azerbaijan area and Turkey's Van Province were discussed during a meeting between the governors general of West Azerbaijan and Turkey's Van Province and border officials of the two countries.

In an interview with the Central News Unit, the governor general of Turkey's Van Province expressed satisfaction with the talks and described the cooperation between Iranian and Turkish border officials as sincere and close. He also emphasized the need to expand commercial and economic relations between the two provinces.

The West Azerbaijan governor general also discussed commercial and economic relations between West Azerbaijan Province and Turkey's Agri and Van Provinces and said: Four points along the border between West Azerbaijan and Van are being considered as sites for joint markets.

Turkey's Move To Open Consulate in Baku Noted

NC1411100589 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] In accordance with the Turkish Government's new policy of broadening its relations with Turks living in foreign countries, Ankara has asked the Soviet Union to agree to open a Turkish consulate in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. According to daily GUNES, published in Turkey, the Turkish Foreign Ministry has officially conveyed the Turkish Government's request for a consulate in Baku to the Soviet officials. In return, the Soviet Union has informed the Turkish Government that it wishes to open a new consulate in Trabzon.

Editorial Comments on Relations With Pakistan

PM1411113289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Oct 89 p 20

[Editorial by Mahmud Ahmadi: "The Roots of Delay in the Trial of the Murderers of Martyr 'Aref Hussain al-Hussaini"]

[Text] Without a doubt the common bonds of culture, religion, language, politics, and social and ethnic issues that exist between Iran and Pakistan are stronger than those between other Muslim countries. Islamic culture and civilization reached the Indian sub-continent via Iran. It was Iranian 'ulema and religious men who emigrated to those lands to bring them the message of Islamic civilization. Thus, they not only accomplished their duty, but also strengthened the bonds between the two nations.

Despite all the enemy propaganda aimed at weakening this bond, relations have continued to exist. Everyone knows how highly the Pakistani people value Persian poetry, Islamic art, and culture. It was for this same reason and under the name of Islam that the people of Pakistan separated themselves from India to gain independence in 1947. Pakistan was the first country to adorn its land with the name "Islamic Republic," after independence.

Why did the rulers not obey the wishes of the people? This is part of another discussion. What we wish to say now is that despite all the strong ties that exist between the two countries, it was natural that following the success of the Islamic revolution the enemies of the revolution would try to stop the spread of this revolution throughout the region.

When U.S. imperialism lost its local base, namely, the shah, it started carrying out certain tricks to prevent its other elements from suffering the same fate. It tried to prevent other Western elements in the region from toppling. One of the methods used in this was the promotion of American Islam, alongside an outward appearance of real Islam. By concocting this medicine for the corrupt rulers of the region, world aggression could safeguard its interests in the area a while longer. It predicted that with the increased awareness among the Muslims concerning the unfair treatment that they had been receiving, it would not be long before the Islamic movement would take hold, and this was the greatest danger for the West.

So the crushing of Islam in Pakistan, especially in view of the special circumstances mentioned, had its own place in terms of priority. In addition to Pakistan's strategic position, the loss of this military base at the same time as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan would have meant an end to the West's ambitions of global domination.

For this reason Saudi Arabia was ordered to give financial help the dependent regimes in the region and at the same time rise up against the Islamic revolution, using

ideology and culture. The promotion of Wahhabi beliefs followed these lines, to the extent that the vast propaganda of the Wahhabis have left a tangible mark on various sections of Pakistani society from educational circles, and religious schools and universities to farms.

This was how the combatant cleric 'Allamah 'Aref Hussain al Hussaini, who was against an Arab presence, American Islam and Wahhabis, was killed. Recently, one of the men involved in the killing, Senator (Hashim Khan), was allowed to travel to Saudi Arabia. Another member of Pakistan's parliament and three former ministers of a northern border province, who had all been arrested by a Peshawar court for being involved in the murder, have all managed to escape, receiving letters of amnesty from the court in Punjab Province. With this kind of attitude from the Pakistani justice department and government, we can only guess at the outcome.

Tehran To Head Asian Countries in Group of 77

LD0411101289 Tehran IRNA in English 0627 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 4, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is to represent the Asian countries in the Group of 77, said Iran's ambassador to Vienna Hoseyn Noqrehkar Shirazi here Friday adding that Iran is also chosen the head of the special group of the Group of 77. This is the first time that Iran is chosen to this position since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Noqrehkar Shirazi will head the two groups in the third session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to be held here from November 20-24.

The session will discuss industrialization of developing countries and will decide the budget for the fiscal years 1990-1991 as well as the UNIDO five-year plan.

Danish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Calls for Improved Relations

LD1211111489 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Visiting Danish deputy foreign minister for political affairs Benny Kimberg met with head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani Saturday to reiterate his country's support for implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 on establishing peace between Iran and Iraq.

Kimberg and his entourage arrived here Friday to submit Danish foreign minister's message to his Iranian counterpart on expansion of bilateral relations. "We believe that peace will be achieved through the implementation of the resolution," said Kimberg adding that "Iran can count on Danish support in this respect." He also noted that the present no-war-no-peace state must be ended. The Danish official further commented on reforms made in the Iranian judicial system and described them as "promising".

"Iran and Denmark are old friends and no barrier exists on expansion of Copenhagen-Tehran relations," stressed Kimberg.

Thanking the "positive" stance of Denmark vis-a-vis the Security Council resolution, Khorasani urged consolidation and further promotion of bilateral ties, with a particular emphasis on parliamentary relations.

Discusses Ties With Habibi

LD1211120989 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi said Sunday that the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and the 1975 agreement between Iran and Iraq would not only bring durable peace to the Persian Gulf region but would also safeguard international security.

Habibi made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Benny Kimberg. He expresed hope that Tehran and Copenhagen would have extensive cooperation especially during Iran's post-war reconstruction.

Kimberg said the no-war-no-peace situation was not to the advantage of anyone and reiterated his country's support for the full execution of the Resolution 598. The Danish official arrived here Friday carrying a message of Danish foreign minister for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the expansion of bilateral ties.

Meets With Deputy Minister Va'ezi

LD1211145389 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12 IRNA—Iran's reconstruction policies and its five year economic development plan were among topics discussed by the visiting Danish Deputy Foreign Minister Benny Kimberg and his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi, here Sunday.

During the meeting, the second between the two officials since Birg arrived in Tehran on Friday, Va'ezi underlined the need for the two countries to continue contacts aimed at expanding mutual ties.

The Danish deputy foreign minister announced his country's keenness to strengthen its political, economic and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic. He also invited Va'ezi to pay an official visit to Copenhagen.

Velayati Meets With UN Population Fund Director

LD1811031689 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17 IRNA—Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mrs

Nafis Sadik informed, in a meeting here Friday, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the UN cooperation with Iran in implementing its population policies. Velayati welcomed the UN cooperation with Iran for exchange of data and implementation of related projects.

Mrs Sadik in a separate meeting with Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi posed some questions regarding basic problems of education in the countries with high population growth, as well as measures taken by the Islamic Republic government in Iran. The high number of students in Iran does not necessarily mean the high growth in the country's population, but it is the public confidence in the government and the Education Ministry after the victory of the Islamic revolution which has encouraged children to become educated, Najafi said. This has caused a significant rise in the number of students over the past ten years, he added.

Meanwhile, Sadik inspected several health centers in Zanjan, southwest of Tehran Tuesday during which she announced UNFPA's support for development and population projects in different countries.

"My visit here is in line with Iran-UNFPA cooperation on the planning for population control in Iran," she said. The joint planning would be carried out for two years initially, and then a five-year plan would be drawn up for the two sides to coordinate their cooperation in the long run. Sadik is currently visiting Iran at the invitation of the Health Ministry.

KAYHAN Cited on Population Control Measures

LD1611101389 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—An English language daily Thursday urged officials of the Islamic Republic to take immediate measures to control population growth in the country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran as a developing country urgently needs proper population control measures. Annual 3.2 percent population growth rate is extremely high for the country," wrote 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial. The daily stressed that if growth rate is not halted in Iran, sooner or later the country will face either starvation or heavy dependence on imported food.

"Having agricultural self-sufficiency as its major objective in the country's first five-year social and economic plan as well as other long term projects implementing population control plans will become a must for Iran." the article noted.

It regretted that due to eight years of Iraqi-imposed war and the country's need to combat manpower, the government did not take the population growth seriously. "...But now this phenomenon should be seriously and properly dealt with," the editorial said, adding that the government should encourage Iranian couples to have only two children using economic incentives.

In the meantime, the daily noted, the public should be informed about the merits of small families, stressing that 'ulema's speeches at Friday prayer gatherings and mosques should be of great assistance.

The article advised the officials to get scientific and experimental aids from international organisations such as the United Nations fund for population activities and those countries which have successfully implemented birth and population control projects.

"If the Islamic Republic Government does not implement proper and quick plans for controlling population in Iran, the future generations in Iran will definitely face severe social and economic problems," the editorial concluded.

Deputy Labor Minister on Creation of New Jobs

NC1211065689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Under the Labor Ministry's plans to protect individual and family businesses as envisaged in the country's first economic and social development plan, jobs will be created for more than 200,000 unemployed people. This was stated by the deputy minister of labor for coordination who is in Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Speaking about the expansion of the market for the products of individual and family businesses, he said: One of the most important objectives behind the creation of such markets is to create new jobs and protect individual businesses to be set up by unemployed people who lack capital. Through an investment of 200,000 rials per capita, the ground for rapid growth and production will be laid.

Judicial Head Yazdi Appoints New Adviser

LD2011150289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, an edict issued by Judicial Branch chief Yazdi appoints Haj Seyyed Hoseyn Imami to the post of adviser and supervisor of the directorate of the judicial branch.

Interior Ministry Issues Communique on Election

LD1811214189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry's elections headquarters issued a communique which announced that the registration of candidates for the position of Majlis deputy, which began last Wednesday, will continue until the end of office hours on Tuesday 21 November. The names of the candidates, whose competence has been approved, will be announced on 27 November.

According
dates whos
executive b
November
province o
basis of th
complaints
competenc
have electi
before the

The consid
deputy in t
board who
constituenc
and eight
communiq
rejected ca
Majlis..

ing to IRNA, the communique says the candi-
hose competence has not been approved by the
ve board can submit their complaints starting 27
ber, for 3 days, to the investigation board of the
e or to the central investigation board. On the
f that communique, the investigation of those
ints will last for 5 days, and the candidates whose
ence is approved by the investigation board can
ection publicity from 6 December up to 24 hours
he mid-term elections.

nsideration of the candidates' competence for
in the Majlis is the responsibility of the executive
whose members are the governor of the election
ency, the public prosecutor or his representative,
ht local trustworthy persons. According to the
nique, the persons whose competence has been
cannot ever again become candidates for the

Majlis De

NC201119
1517 GMT

Deputy Comments on Upcoming Elections

191689 Tehran Television Service in Persian
MT 20 Nov 89

[Monologu
Moslemin
interim el
feature; da

gue by Bakhtaran Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam val-
in Mohammad Ashrafi-Esfahani on upcoming
elections in Tehran, from the weekly Majlis
date not given]

[Text] The
tion spoke
the Majlis
Iranian nat
interim ele
tions will
include Te
Kuhdasht.
deputies ha
President
Rafsanjani
during the
departed th

In the citie
to elect the
the Islamic
Majlis is o
active and
should pres
their posit
They will t
slanderers
should thus
sible the Mus prepare themselves so that as soon as pos-
and it will Majlis' nine vacanct seats can be filled again
ll again comprise 270 deputies.

The electio
Majlis. We
willing, esp
dedicated d
join the M
fulfill their

he great and noble imam of the Islamic revolu-
ke often on the status of the Majlis and said that
is is at the helm of all affairs. The revolutionary
nation is on the threshold of the Islamic Majlis'
elections. Some of the cities where these elec-
ll be held and where candidates are registered
Tehran, Kerman, Karaj, Kordkuy, Kashan, and
t. As the people are aware, some of the Majlis
have become part of the cabinet of esteemed
t of the Islamic Republic Mr Hashemi-
ni, two of the candidates were disqualified
he elections and had to resign, and one has
the world.

ies that I have mentioned, people are preparing
their representatives who will, God willing, join
ic Majlis. Since our dear imam had said that the
on top of all affairs, the people should play an
sensitive role in these interim elections and
resent themselves at the polling places and cast
itive votes for the candidate of their choice.
thus deal a solid blow to the mouths of the idle
and enemies of the revolution. The people

ion of these nine deputies will complete the
e hope the people are preparing themselves, God
pecially the people of Tehran who will elect four
deputies to follow the imam's line and who will
Majlis, that hallowed stronghold, and strive to
ir revolutionary and Islamic obligation toward
legislation, further Islamic objectives and fulfill the aims of the sacred position of the leadership.

Tehran To Host International Conference on Drugs

NC1611081889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The first international conference on fighting drugs will be held in Khordad of next year [month beginning 22 May 1990] in Tehran. Fifty countries are expected to participate.

The director general for international affairs of the Drug Enforcement Staff stated this at a news conference. He added that the UN subcommittee on drugs will also hold its 27th session in Mehr of next year [month beginning 23 September 1990] in Tehran.

He pointed out: One of the programs planned for the participants in the first international conference on fighting drugs will be the inspection of between 25,000-33,000 hectares of land that was under poppy cultivation before the revolution but which is now being used for other crops.

In other remarks, he rejected the propaganda by some of the arrogant mass media and said: No poppy is being cultivated in Iran at all and, as it has been repeatedly stated, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to facilitate forums related to the fight against drugs to gain confidence that poppy is not being cultivated in Iran.

Operations Against Drug Traffickers Continue

Network in Kerman Province Broken

LD1511222789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The director general of the Islamic Revolution Committee's antinarcotics branch announced that the foundation's guards penetrated a drug-smuggling network, which was active throughout the eastern and southern provinces of the country, and arrested 18 of the network's agents and confiscated 200 kilograms of various kinds of narcotics, together with many military weapons. Ten vehicles belonging to the smugglers were seized.

He added: Also within the past 24 hours a main drug-distribution network was also identified in the town of Qazvin and Kerman Province, and all their agents, mainly Afghans, were arrested.

He added: These people had hidden narcotics in tin cans using a special method, and were distributing them after transferring them to Qazvin; 18.5 kilograms of opium were confiscated from those arrested.

IRGC Arrests Agents, Addicts

LD1611000789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in continuing "Val-'Adiyat-3" maneuvers, within the past 24 hours, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps arrested 1,938 narcotics agents and addicts all over the country and confiscated 828 kg of narcotics. The drug smugglers, together with the narcotics seized, were handed over to Judiciary officials.

7 'Notorious Gangs' Smashed

LD1611153389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Simultaneous with the implementation of the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operations in the Kevir region, and in urban and rural areas, seven notorious gangs of drug smugglers were smashed in Sistan va Baluchestan, Kerman, Khorasan, Fars and Central Provinces and in the town of Qazvin during the past 48 hours. Sixty-one members of these gangs were arrested, some of whom have long records in the production and distribution of narcotics. According to a report from our correspondent, during the past 48 hours, 230 drug smugglers and 3,850 vagrant addicts were arrested in various regions of the country and handed over to the judicial authorities.

Strike by University Students Continues

TA1511180689 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Reports indicate that the strike by university students in Tehran, Tabriz, Mashhad, Esfahan, and other cities is continuing and that the striking students have declared that so long as the government does not attend to their just demands with regard to providing student hostels and welfare services, they will not end their strike.

The majority of Amir Kabir Industrial University students, who have been brutally assaulted by the regime's Hezbollah agents and are boycotting their classes, have declared that so long as their classmates are not released from prison, they will continue with their strike.

The escalation of protests and strikes by the country's university students, including those in Tehran, has forced the Islamic regime to acknowledge its failure and announce it will soon take measures to realize the students' demands. According to the Islamic Republic's radio, the president and members of the Cultural Revolution Council, including Majlis speaker Mehdi Karrubi and judicial branch head Mohammad Yazdi, met last night and announced that they will act soon to realize the students' demands.

Pakistan

Iranian Interior Minister Continues Visit

Calls on Benazir Bhutto

BK2011134989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The visiting Iranian interior minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, accompanied by some senior members of his delegation, called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. He conveyed to her greetings and good wishes of the Iranian leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that friendly relations between Pakistan and Iran, based on principles of peaceful coexistence, will thrive and grow even stronger. She expressed the hope that the visit of the delegation would contribute toward consolidating the bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Iranian minister briefed the prime minister about the talks he has held with Pakistani officials since his arrival.

Further on Talks With Bhutto

LD2011163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran's Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri discussed matters of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here today.

The two nations of Iran and Pakistan share many religious and cultural viewpoints to the extent that the Pakistani Government and nation consider the Islamic Republic of Iran as "their second homeland," Bhutto told Nuri.

On the Afghan issue Bhutto said Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan have common borders, and the Iranian and Pakistani Governments should join hands with the heroic Afghan nation to expel foreign elements from the region. The combatant Shiite and Sunni groups in Afghanistan should also try to unify their ranks in order to establish a powerful government in Afghanistan, Bhutto said. She also called for further cooperation of the two countries' at border areas to prevent illegal crossings.

Referring to the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Aref Hussain al-Hussaini, a Shiite Pakistani leader, Bhutto said his murderers were among the opposition elements affiliated to the previous regime, and their head Fazl Haq was condemned in the court, "but, unexpectedly and surprisingly his condemnation was suspended by the Supreme Court." However, she said, the Pakistani Government is filing new evidence and documents in order to bring the culprits to trail.

Meanwhile, Nuri termed his talks with his Pakistani counterpart "fruitful" and expressed hope that all mutual issues especially those relevant to border security would be settled. Nuri also called on Bhutto to take necessary measures for speedy trial of Alhusseini's murderers.

He arrived here last Friday together with a group of his deputies.

Bilateral Relations Discussed

LD2011164389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri, who is currently in Pakistan, met and conferred this morning with Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister. They discussed bilateral relations. During the meeting, the Pakistani prime minister said: The people of Pakistan and Iran share many religious and cultural viewpoints, in such a way that the Pakistani people consider Iran their second home. She then referred to the exalted personality of Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—and added: He was indeed a global personality, and his leadership was not confined only to Iran; the entire Islamic world benefited from his wise guidance. The demise of his holiness the imam was a great loss for Muslims everywhere. She also said that the Governments of Iran and Pakistan and the oppressed nation of Afghanistan must make efforts to achieve unity and push foreign elements out of the region. This will in turn bring about greater closeness among the struggling Muslim groups in Afghanistan. tHey will be able to set up a powerful government in their country. The Pakistani prime minister then noted the various conspiracies aimed at creating divisions among the Afghan mujahidin, stating: Unfortunately, there are some elements in the Afghan interim government who are not pleased about the closeness between Shiite and Sunni Afghan mujahidin. It is the responsibility of the governments of Iran and Pakistan to conduct negotiations with relevant groups to bring their positions closer together.

The Pakistani prime minister also pointed to the martyrdom of Allamah Aref al-Husayni, leader of Pakistan's Shiites, stating: His murderers belong to elements antagonistic to our government; they are agents of the previous regime. That conspiracy was led by a person called Qadr Haq, whose conviction in the courts was based on the necessary evidence and documentation. However, the Supreme Court—much to our surprise and against all expectations—overturned the court's decision. She added: We are currently gathering new evidence and documents to bring the perpetrators of that crime to justice.

According to that report, Interior Minister Nuri made some remarks in which he pointed to the deep relations between the two countries. He said he regarded his negotiations with Pakistani officials during the last few days as useful. He then expressed hope that all issues of interest to both countries—particularly the issue of border security, which was one of the important topics reviewed in the countries' joint committees—would be attended to in a proper and desirable manner. He continued by pointing to the martyrdom of Aref al-Husayni, the late leader of Pakistani Shiite population, saying: In light of the repercussions of that great tragedy, Pakistani Shiites and other Muslims seek the punishment of his murderers. We, in turn, urge the Pakistani Government to take appropriate steps towards the arrest of the murderers and the proper execution of justice.

Wali Khan To Consider Bhutto Proposal

BK1711161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the chief of the Awami National Party, has said that his party will finalize its future line of action in connection with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's proposal for the establishment of a broad-based government. Talking to the PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL on his return to Islamabad from abroad today, he said his party will decide its policy in this regard even though the party has only three members in the National Assembly and as such it cannot play a very effective role.

Sri Lanka

India Accused of Setting Up 'Illegal Force'

BK2111043589 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 21 Nov 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has accused the Indian Army of allowing an illegal paramilitary force to be set up under its patronage in the north and the east of the island. He said that the force, known as the Tamil National Army [TNA], had sophisticated weapons which could not have reached them without the connivance of the Indian Army. His comments came after a TNA attack on five police stations in the eastern district of Amparai last Friday in which more than 90 people were killed. (Chris Nuttel) reports from Colombo that the minister's remarks could spark off a new row between the two countries.

[Begin (Nuttel) recording] There has been growing evidence that the TNA, an alliance of Indian-backed Tamil groups, has been staging a military buildup and has attempted to take over control of the eastern district of Amparai after Indian troops withdrew from the area at the end of last month. But until now Mr Wijeratne had accepted the word of the chief minister of the Northeastern Province and of the Indian Peacekeeping Force commander that no such force existed. On Friday, units of the TNA attacked five police stations in Amparai using mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and machineguns. Military officials said at least 96 people died in the subsequent fighting.

The chief minister, who is a member of one of the Tamil groups constituting the TNA, issued a statement saying more than 300 were killed. He attacked the Sri Lankan Government for deploying its troops in the area, saying security was his responsibility. In an angry reply Mr Wijeratne said that the government is aware that an illegal paramilitary force is being set up under the Northeastern Provincial Council with the patronage of the Indian forces and that the sophisticated weapons in its hands could not have reached it without the knowledge or connivance of the Indian Army.

The minister's statement reveals that relations between India and Sri Lanka are again severely strained. A row over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island was resolved with an agreement signed in September, setting an end-of-year deadline for the complete pullout of troops. But there now seems little prospect of India meeting this deadline. Only the one district of Amparai has so far been cleared and an estimated 36,000 soldiers still remain. [end recording]

Search Operations Conducted, Suspects Arrested

BK1911110789 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1026 GMT 19 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 19 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—During a search operation conducted in the Welimada area in the Uva Province district of Badulla, security forces arrested 309 suspects and 115 were detained, states a government communique issued today. The communique further states that at Matale in the Central Province, security forces arrested 5 suspects.

In a search operation at Mailagaswewa in the North Central Province, security forces arrested 70 suspects of which 30 were detained.

In Polonnaruwa, police arrested 2 subversives and recovered a hand grenade and a bayonet.

At Kurunegala in the North Western Province, security forces recovered a shot gun.

In the Sabaragamuwa Province's Kegalle District, five subversives were arrested. Security forces also recovered 2 typewriters, 2 microscopes and some miscellaneous items.

In search operations in the Eastern Province district of Trincomalee, security forces recovered 5 shot guns, 1 typewriter, 10 roneo [copying] machines in the Kantale area. A shot gun was also recovered at China-Bay, the communique states.

JVP Violence Continues Despite Leaders' Death

BK2011162889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Sri Lanka say that hundreds of residents have fled the eastern Amparai District following fierce fighting. UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] quoting Sri Lankan Government sources says that at least 100 people have been killed in the heavy fighting over the weekend. Residents contacted on telephone are reported to have said that the Sri Lankan Army was continuing to move armor and reinforcements into the area.

Meanwhile, the rebels in south and central parts of the island continue their struggle despite last week's killing of two top JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leaders. At least 40 people are reported killed in today's violence.

3 Soldiers Killed in Northern Town of Mannar

BK2111092689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0819 GMT 21 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed by the Citizens Volunteer Force [CVF] in the northern town of Mannar. The CVF comprises, EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] cadres.

Security forces told LANKAPUVATH that the victims, a sergeant and two privates, had gone out around noon on administrative detail concerning the supplying of water to the army camp.

They had been abducted near the Mannar kachcheri [court]. Their bullet riddled bodies were found a few hours later.

Meanwhile, two men, one of them G. Gnanachandran of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], had been killed by the EPRLF.

Communique Issued on Violence, Arrests 21 Nov

BK2111123089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1136 GMT 21 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven persons, including a principal of a school, were killed by subversives in separate incidents.

A government communique issued today states that the principal of Bambaragama Madhya Maha Vidyalaya [Bambaragama Central High School] in the Uva Province district of Badulla was shot dead by subversives.

The communique further states that at Digalhera, also in Badulla, subversives shot and killed six members of two families.

At Dickwella, in the Southern Province district of Matara, subversives shot dead two of their own cadres, the communique states.

It also states that in the North Central Province's Polonnaruwa District, during a search operation, security forces arrested fifteen subversives.

At Jayanthipura, also in Polonnaruwa, security forces recovered from a subversive hideout, 12-bore shotguns, 16-bore shotguns, galkatas [homemade pistols], claymore mines, packets of gelignite, hand bombs, detonators, wire rolls, and torch batteries.

Security forces conducting search operations in the Keselwatta area of Kalutara arrested three subversives and recovered five 12-bore shotguns, cartridges, swords and JVP [Janatha Vimukthi ?eramuna] seals.

Police arrested six subversives in Aranayake in the Sabaragamuva province and recovered cartridges, army uniforms, and telephones.

Eight subversives were arrested in the Sabaragamuwa Province's Yatiyantota area by the security forces.

At Ratnapura, during an operation by security forces in the Kapugama area, 12-bore shotguns and detonators were recovered.

The communique further states that unidentified persons set fire to the rubber store of Alman Trading Company in Colombo.

Minister Rebuffs Northeast Chief Over Report

BK2111113289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, has said that he was shocked over the statement attributed to the chief minister of the Northeast Province, Varadaraja Perumal, reported in the ISLAND newspaper yesterday, purporting to be a report from a Trincomalee correspondent.

The minister in a statement says that it is inconceivable that Mr Perumal should attribute lack of responsibility to the Sri Lankan Government in the deployment of the Sri Lankan forces in the Amparai District. The Sri Lankan forces moved into these areas consequent to the deinduction of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] at the request of Mr Perumal. He is fully aware that Sri Lankan forces have not and do not operate with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in any district. It is equally inconceivable that Mr Perumal could have stated to the reporter that the Sri Lankan forces had disarmed the CVF [Citizens Volunteer Force] and that the STF [Special Task Force] had carried out any acts of looting or burning of houses or that they should start a Tamil-Muslim riot. Mr Wijeratne points out that these vile allegations are no doubt a smoke screen to cover the true facts. The minister says I would request Mr Perumal even at this late stage to (?recall) the statement, if he did not in fact make it and act according to the law of the land.

Mr Wijeratne notes in his statement that we are aware that an illegal paramilitary force has been set up under the northeast provincial council with the patronage of the Indian forces.